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CALENDAR OF
THE POINSETT PAPERS

CALENDAR OF
JOEL R. POINSETT PAPERS

in

THE HENRY D. GILPIN
COLLECTION

Prepared by

THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SURVEY
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

Edited by

GRACE E. HEILMAN
and
BERNARD S. LEVIN



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PREFACE

The Historical Records Survey was organized as a project of the Works Progress Administration in 1936 for the purpose of creating bibliographical controls for several types of research materials hitherto inaccessible to most researchers. When the Survey ceased to operate as a Federal project on August 31, 1939, the Pennsylvania Historical Records Survey became a state-wide project sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. Together with other Work Projects Administration projects sponsored by the Historical Commission it was incorporated into the Pennsylvania Historical Survey in January, 1941.

The Pennsylvania Historical Survey has undertaken as one of its major tasks the compilation of data on public records, church records, manuscript collections, early American imprints, and newspapers. The principal aim of its work in manuscript collections is to prepare guides, calendars, lists, and other keys to holdings of private or non-official manuscripts open to public use. The preparation of the present calendar of Poinsett papers in The Gilpin Collection falls within this field of the Survey's activity.

The 613 items of Poinsett material herein calendared form a distinct group of manuscripts within the large collection of Gilpin papers in The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. They are, for the most part, personal letters, but include several documents of importance for the history of American diplomacy, particularly Latin-American relations. These manuscripts span the whole of Poinsett's career: they relate to his school life in Connecticut and England, his travel in Russia, political activity in Mexico and South America during the revolutionary upheavals, the nullification and secession movements in South Carolina, and to many other political and cultural subjects in which Poinsett played a prominent role.

Each item in this group of manuscripts has been carefully abstracted with the idea of making the calendar serve as an adequate substitute for the originals, for most practical research purposes. In a few instances, such as Van Buren's

memorandum to Poinsett on the Canadian boundary dispute, documents have been quoted in full; in many instances particular passages have been given verbatim; in all instances the whole content of the letter or document has been indicated. Notes identifying persons mentioned in the papers and comparable data have been inserted where this information was available with a reasonable amount of research.

The manuscripts were calendared by Miss Grace E. Heilman and the volume was edited by Mr. Bernard S. Levin, State Editor. Mrs. Margaret Shelburne Eliot, Assistant Archivist in charge of manuscript inventories in the Washington office, furnished valuable suggestions while the calendar was in preparation. Thanks are due Mr. William Reitzel, Director of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Mr. J. Harcourt Givens, Assistant in charge of the Manuscripts Division, and Miss Margaret L. Bailey, Assistant Editor, for their generous cooperation in the undertaking. The Pennsylvania Historical Survey acknowledges a further debt to The Gilpin Library of The Historical Society, and to Professor Conyers Read, Chairman of the Committee on Publications, for making possible the present publication of the calendar.

The publications of the Pennsylvania Historical Survey are distributed to important libraries in Pennsylvania and to a limited number of libraries and government depositories outside the state. Requests for information regarding any of the activities of the Survey should be addressed to the State Supervisor, 46 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

J. KNOX MILLIGAN, *Acting State Supervisor*
Pennsylvania Historical Survey

May 15, 1941

INTRODUCTION

The papers calendared in the following pages form a distinct group within the mass of letters and documents presented by Henry D. Gilpin to The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. These papers of Joel Roberts Poinsett cover the period from 1794 to 1851, and provide a valuable supplement to a larger collection, known as the Poinsett Papers, also owned by The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The latter collection was presented to the Society about 1885 by Mrs. John Julius Pringle, Mrs. Poinsett's daughter-in-law. Both collections cover approximately the same span of years, but the papers in the Gilpin Collection are richer in material dealing with the latter part of Poinsett's career, and they include a larger proportion of personal letters.

It is not easy to determine the path by which this comprehensive body of Poinsett material came into the Gilpin Collection. Poinsett was a political associate of Gilpin's. Both men were Democrats of the Jackson-Van Buren school, and both were members of Van Buren's cabinet, Poinsett as Secretary of War from 1837 to 1841, and Gilpin as Attorney General from 1840 to 1841. However, it is extremely doubtful that Poinsett himself gave his papers to Gilpin; in all probability the latter obtained them from the persons to whom they were written, or from Mrs. Poinsett, when he began to write the sketch of Poinsett's life published in *Political Portraits*, a collection of short biographies. A letter written by Mrs. Poinsett to Gilpin in 1855, in which she spoke of having previously sent Gilpin some memoranda relating to her husband, supports this theory.¹

The collection calendared in this volume falls into several natural divisions, corresponding chronologically to the periods of Poinsett's life and public career. The first division covers his childhood and education. Born in Charleston in 1779 of a French Huguenot father and an English mother, young Joel spent six years of his early life in England. Later he studied in Charleston under the Reverend James H. Thompson, entered Dr. Timothy Dwight's school

¹ See *infra*, entry 612.

at Greenfield Hill, Connecticut, in 1794, and two years later continued his education in England.

There are thirteen letters of the period from 1794 to 1796, seven written from Greenfield Hill and six from England. They are especially valuable because they fill a gap in the Poinsett Papers, and appear to be the first products of Poinsett's pen extant. Those written while he was a student at Dr. Dwight's school show a lively interest in the world about him, heightened by keen powers of observation and an appreciation of natural beauty.

After his arrival in England, Poinsett spent a short time with the Dollands, his mother's relatives, and then proceeded to Wandsworth, near London, where he attended the school of a Mr. Roberts, brother of the then head-master of St. Paul's School. Poinsett lived in the Roberts home, and his letters to his sister Eliza are largely concerned with the life he found there.

Poinsett left Wandsworth to go to Scotland, where he was to begin the study of medicine, but remained there only one year because his health suffered in the northern climate. A sea voyage to Portugal partially restored his health, and he returned to England in the following spring to study military theory and tactics, a subject which particularly fascinated him. In 1800 he returned to Charleston.

The next year he was off again, this time for the "grand tour" of the capitals of Europe, but the trip was cut short by the death of his father in 1803. Eliza had died in 1800, and soon after Poinsett's return to Charleston his only remaining sister, Susan, died.

Two letters written from St. Petersburg to Poinsett's cousin, Dr. Joseph Johnson of Charleston, deal with his European journey of 1806 to 1809. They add little to the information contained in the large collection of Poinsett Papers.

In 1811, the date of the next letter in the calendar, Poinsett was in Buenos Aires acting as United States commercial agent and consul-general to Argentina, Chile, and Peru. His mission covered the years from 1810 to 1815, the period of revolutions in South America. However, the documents in this collection written from South America add very little to what is already known of Poinsett's mission. Two letters to Dr. Johnson and two sets of notes on South

America comprise the whole group. The notes, which describe the vice-royalty of the Rio de la Plata, were incorporated into Poinsett's report² on South American affairs, written November 4, 1818 at the request of President Monroe.

In the interval between his South American mission and 1821, the date of the next letters in the calendar, Poinsett had sat in the South Carolina legislature for four years, and had been elected to Congress in 1820 as a Jeffersonian Democrat. The two letters written in 1821 to Dr. Johnson refer chiefly to Poinsett's trip abroad in the summer of 1821, a trip on which it is supposed that Poinsett might have been acting in an official capacity for the United States.

Poinsett's seat in Congress gave him an opportunity to display his interest in the navy, both for national defence and for suppressing piracy. In 1822 he shared actively in the attempt to obtain compensation from Congress for certain men who had done conspicuous service in arresting pirates and bringing them to justice.

A few letters written in the period 1823-25 to Charleston friends show a strong interest in the Greek question. Poinsett was vehement in his opposition to Daniel Webster's suggestion that the United States aid the Greeks in their struggle for independence. In these letters there is also comment on the election contest between Clay, Crawford and John Q. Adams, which had to be decided in the House of Representatives.

On March 6, 1825, Poinsett accepted President Adams' appointment as the first ambassador of the United States to Mexico. He had refused the appointment on earlier occasions, and had been the recipient of a letter from General George Izard soliciting Poinsett's influence in securing the appointment for himself. Poinsett wrote to President Monroe³ on February 8, 1825, enclosing Izard's letter, and explained that he had discouraged Izard's application.

Poinsett arrived in Mexico in May, and in October wrote a letter to Johnson describing his difficulties with Henry George Ward, the British chargé d'affaires in Mexico.

² Printed in William R. Manning, ed., *Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States Concerning the Independence of the Latin-American Nations*, I, 444 ff.; II, 1005 ff.; III, 1720 ff.

³ See *infra*, entry 36.

He remarks significantly in that letter that it would not be "safe" for him to tell Johnson how the policy of the Mexican government had been changed from pro-British to pro-American in the few months since his arrival in Mexico. Although this letter contains nothing new, it explains in an informal way Poinsett's aims in Mexico and his true attitude toward England. In his Mexican mission he had three objectives: to maintain Cuba as a Spanish dependency, to settle the boundary question, and to draw up a commercial treaty. This letter suggests that Poinsett was instrumental in the refusal of Congress to send an expedition against Cuba, but it does not answer the question of the extent of his influence in restraining Mexico from an attempt to liberate Cuba, which would then be easy prey for England or France.

Another letter, written in 1826, refers to the American party, which Poinsett notes was "said to have been created" by him. It was an opposition party intended to combat by political means the pro-European, pro-aristocratic leanings of the party in power. In spite of all his efforts Poinsett was discouraged by the situation. He announced his intention of resigning his post if he were not appointed to succeed Richard C. Anderson as United States representative to the adjourned Congress of Panama, scheduled to meet again at Tacubaya. He felt that he had done more than anyone else to further United States interests in Mexico, and had given liberally of his time and money "to the great object of raising up an American party" in Mexico.

Four letters to Dr. Johnson in 1827 have the great value of personal letters written to an intimate friend. Letters of this type are rare in the larger collection of Poinsett Papers, and, therefore, the collection here calendared has a definite contribution to make to the interpretation of Poinsett's life. These four letters, expressing as they do Poinsett's hatred of the monarchical elements in Mexico, his interest in the republican elements, and his efforts to develop an American party, reflect the democratic ideals of this aristocrat of the Old South.

By 1828 Poinsett was ready to leave Mexico; his thoughts turned homeward to the congressional election, the tariff question, and his own political future. This is a possible reason why the rest of the letters in this group are, on the whole, disappointing. As Poinsett left Mexico at the

request of the Mexican legislature, it is to be regretted that the letters he wrote Dr. Johnson during the last eighteen months of his mission are not more revealing.

Soon after his return home he became involved in the nullification dispute in South Carolina. Though he felt that the South was being discriminated against in the tariff question, he was, from the very beginning, recognized as one of the leaders of the Union party. He was unequivocally opposed to disunion. The letters here calendared give a clear, if incomplete, picture of his tireless activity in trying to effect a compromise and in fighting to preserve the Union.

Poinsett's interests were not merely political and military. Letters in this collection reveal a predilection for scientific matters, such as the introduction of certain useful plants into the United States, and the effort to develop an economical vegetable substitute for sperm oil. In 1827 Poinsett was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society. His certificate of membership and a letter of thanks for his contribution of a rare Mexican grammar appear in this collection. A significant letter from Robert Buist, Philadelphia florist, in December, 1835, documents an item of information long accepted as true but lacking definite substantiation.⁴ According to this letter, the poinsettia, introduced from Mexico by Poinsett in 1828, was named for him by Buist, who had discussed the matter with the eminent University of Glasgow botanist, Sir William J. Hooker. In 1838 Peter S. Du Ponceau, president of the American Philosophical Society, sent the Scottish poet William Kennedy to Poinsett with a letter of introduction in which he remarks that Kennedy wished to become acquainted with the "principal scientific and literary characters" of the United States.

In 1832 Poinsett wrote the first of a series of letters of great interest and pertinence to Miss Frances Tyrrell in England, a cousin on his mother's side. In these letters, which are as vigorous and full of charm as any that he wrote, he expressed himself freely and clearly on many subjects. Like the letters to Dr. Johnson, they add the little details necessary for the understanding of Poinsett's personality and character. In the first of this series for instance, Poinsett says,

⁴ J. Fred Rippy, *Joel R. Poinsett, Versatile American* (Durham, N. C., 1935), 205, 215, note 32.

comparing his own country with Miss Tyrrell's, "Here the nobility is that of Nature; every man may place himself in the first rank if he possesses talents and energy." This, in a sense, is the keynote of his life: patriotism, belief in democracy, faith in republican institutions.

A letter to Miss Tyrrell written in 1833 says definitely that Poinsett was recognized as the leader of the Union party in the nullification struggle, a matter which is left in some doubt in the Poinsett Papers. He calls this recognition the "most flattering distinction" he ever received from his fellow citizens.

Poinsett became Secretary of War in Van Buren's cabinet in 1837. The next four years are, in both collections, the best documented period of his life. Letters of congratulation and of application occupy a prominent place in the correspondence of his first year in office. Early in his cabinet career he received a letter of some importance from Anastasio Bustamante, president of Mexico, dealing with the claims of the United States in Mexico and expressing appreciation of Poinsett's understanding of Mexico as shown in his unofficial activity in this case.

In 1838 Poinsett's political future was seriously endangered by Hugh Legaré's campaign in South Carolina for reelection to Congress, and this matter receives more than passing attention in the present group of documents. Included is a draft of Poinsett's justification of himself, written in October, 1838 for publication in Charleston.

The number of letters for Poinsett's third year in the cabinet is small, but many of them are of considerable importance. One from Dennis A. Smith of Baltimore, inviting Poinsett to participate in a land speculation scheme, drew the response that Poinsett had decided to engage in no speculations during his term of public office, no matter how attractive they might be financially.

The subjects touched upon in the letters of Poinsett's last two years as Secretary of War give some idea of his versatility: the boundary dispute between Great Britain and the United States, the Indian questions in Florida and Georgia, the founding of the National Institute, Nicollet's explorations, the subtreasury plan, internal improvements, the political campaign of 1840, and a variety of less important matters. Few subjects of vital importance to the nation

and few men of national consequence fail to appear in Poinsett's correspondence.

Quantitatively the Poinsett papers in the Gilpin Collection are richest for the four years from 1837 to 1841, but the real wealth of the collection lies in the last decade of Poinsett's life, the years between his retirement from active political life in 1841 and his death in 1851. This is particularly true because the larger collection of Poinsett Papers has almost no material for these last years.

During his retirement he retained an academic interest in politics. Many of his letters deal with the Mexican War and with other matters of national interest. He discourses at great length and with great severity, for example, on the political machinations of John C. Calhoun, in whom he could see no good. He also found much to interest him in fields remote from the political arena, such as agriculture, internal improvements, and public education. He believed that each state should provide free public education, and constantly deplored the fact that South Carolina was backward in that movement. He also felt that a particular effort should be made to educate those who earn their living by the labor of their hands. He believed slavery to be an evil, and wrong in principle, even while he was abhorring abolitionists and using slaves himself. He saw the inhumanity of the system, but believed that the South had no alternative at that time because of the economic advantages of slave labor.

In these and similar attitudes Poinsett was in advance of his times. He was a sane, progressive liberal, possessed of refreshing modesty and a sense of humor that must have endeared him to his friends. His forthrightness and clear vision would make him an exceptional man today, one hundred years after the height of his career.

What appears to be the last letter written by Poinsett is in this collection. It was dated November 5, 1851, within a month of his death, and was addressed to Frances Tyrrell. Although never strong, and nearly always in ill health, Poinsett lived to be 72 and accomplished an amount of work that would have tried the strength of a man in excellent health. In his last letter he wrote, characteristically, "I had once said in the presumption of youth, 'A man was a fool, who suffered himself to die if he could mount a horse or get into a ship'—with certain allowances I still maintain the same opinion."

GRACE E. HEILMAN

ABBREVIATIONS

A. D.	Autograph document
A. Df.	Autograph draft
A. Df. S.	Autograph draft signed
A. D. S.	Autograph document signed
A. L.	Autograph letter
A. L. S.	Autograph letter signed
A. N. S.	Autograph note signed
Cy.	Copy
Cy. S.	Copy signed
D. S.	Document signed
L. S.	Letter signed

THE PAPERS of JOEL R. POINSETT, 1794-1851

1. [1794?] J. R. P[OINSETT], Greenfield, [Conn.]. To ELIZA [POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.]

Went by boat from Charleston to New York on his way to Timothy Dwight's school in Greenfield, Conn.; was seasick at first, but Captain Pratt was kind and helpful; recalls sea voyage when family returned from England some years previous; he would like to be a sailor but must obey his father and go to school; he is too idle to be the great man his father wishes to see him; prefers poetry to philosophy and novels to Latin and Greek; praises Mr. [Rev. James H.] Thompson, his former master, for his learning, but "he was too fond of flogging"; hopes Dr. Dwight will make something of him; describes sailing incident in his boyhood in which Captain Pratt was concerned; on this trip they had a squall in the Gulf Stream; New York was a welcome sight after eight days at sea; wants to see Naples and Constantinople some day; thinks New York is beautiful; after he was there three days Mr. Butler sent him off on a sloop to Newark; was sicker on that passage than on longer trip to New York; stayed at the General Putnam Tavern in Newark, where he drank coffee for the first time.

A. Df. S. 4 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

2. [1794?] J. R. P[OINSETT], Greenfield, [Conn.]. To ELIZA [POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.]

After breakfast at the General Putnam he left Newark by stage coach; met Mr. [Samuel A.?] Otis, a Congressman from Boston who was acquainted with Charleston people and who invited Poinsett to visit him in the holidays; had to part with Mr. Otis at Fairfield, [Conn.], where he easily procured a conveyance to go to Dr. Dwight's school; went directly to Dr. Dwight's house upon his arrival in Greenfield; Dr. Dwight was very friendly, and showed him the garden; had tea with the Dwights and stayed for family prayers; the next morning Dr. Dwight's four sons introduced him to the twenty boys in the school; none of them are remarkably clever; he can beat them all at Latin and Greek, thanks to Mr. Thompson; prefers wandering in woods and lanes to playing with the boys.

A. Df. S. 3 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

3. [1794?] J. R. P[OINSETT], Greenfield, [Conn.]. To ELIZA [P[OINSETT], Charleston, S. C.]

Advises his sister where to address him; he is tolerably happy in the school, because of Dr. Dwight's kind treatment; environs of Greenfield are very beautiful, but he prefers his grandfather's place in Enfield, Eng.; he likes to walk and dream; misses the library in Charleston and their own well-stored shelves, for there are only school books for him in Greenfield; Dr. Dwight is pleasantly loquacious; he is popular with Dwight because he has learned to listen and never talks about himself; sees many pretty girls every Sunday in church; New England Sabbath begins Saturday night and ends at sunset on Sunday; Sabbath very strictly observed, but Sunday evening is a gay time with music and visiting; wants news from home, especially about an unnamed young lady, "how she bears my absence and who she dances with now."

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

4. [1794?] [J. R. P[OINSETT], Greenfield, [Conn.]. To ELIZA [P[OINSETT], Charleston, S. C.]

Was infatuated with a "fair nymph of Greenfield" but was cured of his folly over "the prettiest little flirt in the village" by a severe mortification; is studying assiduously again and has gained Dr. Dwight's commendation; Dr. Dwight thinks he will rise high and ought to aim for the office of President of the United States; his chief fault is lack of discipline and perseverance; Dwight was surprised at his previous reading in travel literature, but changed the subject and ended, as he generally did, by a lecture on moral philosophy; later Dwight read him some verse he was about to publish, but his [Poinsett's] father had spoiled him for "middling poetry" by reading him Homer and Virgil; his change from ladies to studies was caused by an incident at a ball, where the Greenfield girls ignored him for "several smart young men from New York"; he is now happier and healthier than when he was "philandering with or dreaming of a little coquette."

A. Df. 3 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

5. [1795?] [J. R. P[OINSETT], Greenfield, [Conn.]. To ELIZA [P[OINSETT], Charleston, S. C.]

Because of long and serious illness, it will be necessary for him to leave this rigorous climate and return home; will miss Dr. Dwight, who has been very kind; Dwight is to be made President of Yale College; he [Poinsett] looks forward to coming home; recalls his

father's efforts to strengthen his constitution by making him ride horseback and work a pump handle; will regret leaving Greenfield, which he loves very much.

A. Df. 2 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

6. [1795?] J. R. P[OINSETT], New York, [N. Y.]. To [WILLIAM] GRAY [of North Carolina, fellow student]

Has met his family and expects to travel for his health's sake; will visit members of his father's family who just landed in Newport, R. I., from France; wants to know if Gray is going to "Newhaven College" with Dr. Dwight or if he will return to the banks of the Roanoke and be a farmer.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

7. [1795?] J. R. P[OINSETT], Charleston, [S. C.]. To [WILLIAM] GRAY

Has returned home after a delightful summer but is discontented and restless; reads extensively because he has no companions at home; would prefer Yale for finishing his education; Mr. Greenwood, an Englishman, thinks an English education far better than an American one, and may persuade his [Poinsett's] father to send him to school in England; [John H.] Jacocks has gone to Yale with Dr. Dwight; he will make his way in the world; advises Gray, as a farmer, to read Virgil again.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

8. [1796?] [J. R. POINSETT], London, [Eng.]. To ELIZA [POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.]

Mr. and Mrs. [John] Dolland have received him kindly; spent three days at Enfield with his grandfather; after recovering from his seasickness on voyage to England, he became acquainted with Mr. Lowndes, who gave him a lecture on "politeness to the ladies so well understood in his time, and so little practised by the youngsters of the present day"; he spent most of his time with a Mr. Rutledge, with whom he sat up a whole night to watch the mate, who, becoming suddenly deranged, had to be confined to the forecabin; Mr. Daniel Blacke, a strange fellow, had a menagerie of wild beasts on board; a minx belonging to Blacke was condemned to death by passengers for killing many fowls; the rattlesnake's cage was so hung that if the snake escaped it would be precipitated into the sea; they anchored in the Downs on the 35th day; stayed on board all night

because the "little deal boats" wanted three guineas a head to take passengers to shore; Deal is a "horrid hole"; he traveled to Canterbury by post chaise; was delighted with scenery but traveled too fast, "spanking along at . . . eight miles an hour"; saw Becket's tomb in Canterbury Cathedral; upon arrival in London went to St. Paul's and presented himself to Mr. Dolland; they went by carriage to the Dollands' villa in the country, crossing London Bridge and going through East London; the next day Mr. Dolland sent him to see his grandfather; now he is about to go to Brighton for a week with Mr. Dolland.

A. Df. 6 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

9. [1796?] J. R. P[OINSETT], Wandsworth, [Eng.]. To ELIZA [POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.]

Finds school rules difficult after vacation, but likes Mr. Roberts and his family; Wandsworth a melancholy place; describes his trip with Dolland from London to Brighton, where they visited Mrs. Tyrrell, an old friend; failed to see country between Brighton and London because Dolland insisted on traveling at night; Mr. Butler of Chelsea refused to accept him as a pupil because other Carolinians who had studied with him "had all turned out badly without a single exception"; he [Poinsett] replied angrily; Dr. Roberts, head master of St. Paul's School, recommended his brother's school at Wandsworth.

A. Df. S. 4 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

10. [1796?] J. R. P[OINSETT], Wandsworth, [Eng.]. To ELIZA [POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.]

Mr. Roberts, his preceptor, has been in the army; he is not a profound scholar, but a good teacher of languages and sciences; he teaches fencing and drawing very badly; Mrs. Roberts is motherly and amiable; the eldest son, William, is a lawyer and a well-educated gentleman; Alfred, the second son, is chaplain of Guy's Hospital [London], but he and his wife live in Wandsworth; he [Poinsett] reads Tacitus with Alfred, and fences with him; the latter is his favorite relaxation, though he also plays cricket; the Misses Roberts are intelligent but not young and not pretty; they know Mrs. [Sarah] Siddons, and correspond with Hannah More; there are about fifteen boys, none of them remarkable; he likes one of them, Chitty, who is very amiable; spends his leisure with the Roberts family; although they are interesting and their home is pleasant, he misses his own family and country.

A. Df. S. 3 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

11. [1796?] J. R. P[OINSETT], Wandsworth, [Eng.]. To ELIZA [POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.]

Life at school is uneventful; the Dollands took him to the ball of the Lady Mayoress [of London], a very magnificent affair; he was amused rather than impressed, and a little lonely; found the English aristocracy there a "noble race of man"; they were as different from other ranks of society represented as are race horses at home from carriage horses; found pleasure in company of Mrs. Dolland's elder sister, Miss H—; "if I write a novel she shall be my heroine, for she [is] too old for me to fall in love with her"; made special note of the "noble figure of the Duke of Bedford" and the "portly person of his honor the mayor"; upon return to Wandsworth found the Misses Roberts gleeful over expected visit of Mrs. Siddons, whose acting on the stage has enchanted him.

A. Df. S. 3 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

12. [1796?] J. R. P[OINSETT], Wandsworth, [Eng.]. To ELIZA [POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.]

He was impressed with Mrs. Siddons' appearance and manner, but feels that her stage career has made it impossible for her to act naturally off the stage; "I should be very sorry to pass my life with a Heroine of the buskin. She walks, and looks and talks like a tragedy queen"; the ladies stand in awe of her; he is told she is really pious; next week he will see her play *Lady Macbeth*.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

13. [1797?] J. R. P[OINSETT], Wandsworth, [Eng.]. To ELIZA [POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.]

Will soon leave for Edinburgh, where he is to spend the next three years; his nature shows an irresistible propensity for change, and he looks forward to leaving Wandsworth; Alfred Roberts took him to an exhibition of painting at Somerset House; [Thomas] Lawrence is a great portrait painter, but destined to failure as an historical painter; the Roberts family think Lawrence the equal of Michelangelo and Raphael; he was more impressed by the beauty and stylishness of the women he saw at the exhibition than by the paintings.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

14. 1807, Mar. 7. J. R. POINSETT, St. Petersburg, [Russia]. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

He is leaving for six months in interior of Russia; has enjoyed his northern tour with its charms of novelty; St. Petersburg is more

Asiatic than European; hears that Moscow is more so; from Moscow he will proceed down the Volga and through the Crimea to Odessa; Russian a difficult language to study; Russian army has had brilliant successes; asks Johnson to procure for him a commission as aide-de-camp to the governor or one of the generals so that he can obtain military information in Russia; wants £1,000 sent through Mr. T[imothy] Tyrrell in London during the year 1807; the President's [Jefferson] last message gave him "infinite pleasure."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 22.5 cm. x 19 cm.

**15. 1808, June 1. J. R. POINSETT, St. Petersburg, [Russia].
To Jos. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.**

Detained in St. Petersburg by climate and other circumstances; the thaw is just beginning in Russia; after taking leave at court he will go to Paris, where he hopes Johnson will have sent £500 for him; will be home before end of 1808; he sent long letter in March by his friend [Philip, Viscount] Royston, who was lost in crossing the Baltic; will write from Paris, as it is impossible to send letters from Germany; will send some Russian books home; used his knowledge of Russian only to talk to the country people; in Moscow and St. Petersburg French is more commonly spoken; Russian literature at low ebb; wrote him previously to pay \$1,000 to Lovell.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 22.5 cm. x 18.5 cm.

16. [1808?] [J. R. POINSETT]

Memorandum: lists and prices of books; also part of an expense account of his European travels; miscellaneous notes.

A. D. 4 pp. 22 cm. x 18.5 cm.

**17. 1811, Nov. 2. J. R. POINSETT, Buenos Aires, [Argentina].
To DR. J[OSEPH] JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.**

Acknowledges receipt of two letters; a revolution "involving only the destruction of one party and establishing the ephemeral existence of another" has occurred; the Portuguese have advanced troops to settle disputes between Buenos Aires and Montevideo; the parties have arranged a temporary truce, fearing that the Portuguese will "act the part of the lawyers, devour the oyster and divide the shells . . . so that there is an end to my principal diversions, naval combats and bombardments"; he doubts that the Portuguese troops will withdraw; Paraguay has united with Buenos Aires, but most of other troops are in possession of Goyoheche, the commander of the Creole forces of Lima [Peru]; troops of the Junta of Buenos Aires are

commanded by Pueyveydon; revolution in Chile has caused banishment of former government members; he is leaving for Chile on November 15; wants all his property insured; he drew \$3,000 on Johnson in favor of James Monroe, Secretary of State; requests him to "stay all letters in a female hand"; he will see the whole collection upon his return.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

18. [1811?] [J. R. POINSETT?]

Description of South America: memorandum of chief products, towns, boundaries, and types of government in the eight intendancies of the Viceroyalty of the Rio de La Plata.

4 pp. 32 cm. x 19 cm.

19. [1811?] [J. R. POINSETT?]

Memorandum of provinces of the Viceroyalty of Rio de La Plata or Buenos Aires: capitals and districts included in each province are named. Note on 4th page in Poinsett's hand refers to a map of La Cruz.

4 pp. 32 cm. x 21 cm.

20. 1812, Mar. 1. J. R. POINSETT, Santiago de Chile. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Here "all is confusion, revolution, war and rumors of war; it is a gentle state of agitation which pleases . . . and seems as necessary to my mind as exercise to the body"; wants to return home since his commission in South America has been executed; read about gale and tornado which struck Charleston; presumes his mission must be known, since he has been named consul general of "all these provinces" [Buenos Aires, Chile, and Peru]; feels he should not be required to pay treble taxes; there must be an honorable exemption for those serving abroad; he congratulates Senator John [Gaillard?] on his victory over "so redoubtable a champion as Col. Rouse"; thanks him for paying his debts in France; he is sorry Mrs. Lane is ill; he is collecting valuable information on South America.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

21. 1816, July 20. D[AVID] PORTER, Washington, [D. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Philadelphia, [Pa.]

Received his letter with enclosed letter to Mr. Adams; hopes Poinsett has met Don Jan Miguele; he [Porter] has not written

Miguel very frequently because he feared information might have fallen into other hands; asks Poinsett to explain this silence and to offer his congratulations on the successes of the patriots; has yielded to the importunities of family and friends in declining command of an expedition to the Pacific for the protection of commerce and citizens in that area and of possessions on the Columbia River; whole matter is still a secret.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

22. 1821, June 19. J. R. P[OINSETT], Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To Jos. [JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.]

His health slightly improved; Dr. [Philip S.] Physick pronounces his knee well, but recommends a sea voyage, since he has been in danger of tuberculosis; would like to go to Spain to survey the revolution there, but the journey is tedious, the time too short, and the accommodations bad; visit to England would be preferable; he could see Mr. Dolland there; he will recommend Mrs. Monefett's son to the Department if Johnson thinks him a fit subject; explains arrangements for caring for his garden during his absence; encloses a letter to Mr. Breithaupt respecting money arrangements; if he goes to England he will sail on July 10.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

23. 1821, July 10. J. R. POINSETT, New York, [N. Y.]. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Acknowledges receipt of \$300; is sailing for Liverpool on the *Albion* for his health; can be reached either through Mr. Tim Tyrrell, Guildhall, or Mr. [Richard] Rush; will leave for home in October, to be back in New York by November 15.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 34 cm. x 21 cm.

24. 1821, Nov. J. R. POINSETT, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Has obtained information on agricultural subjects in France which will be of interest to the South; most profitable branch of agriculture there is the cultivation of oleaginous plants, the poppy, and a kind of cabbage called "Colzat"; he will send the seeds for them; the oils are used for lamps and are preferable to sperm oil; also used as food and for painting; he believes United States imports for those purposes; vegetable oil produces a more brilliant light [than sperm oil]; the French are cultivating New Zealand flax; [François?] Michaux told him it would thrive better in the rice lands

of the South, and will send him some for experiment; he also will receive a thousand olive plants from Michaux, who says they will do better on the Sea Islands; Mr. Fitzsimmons may try them on Bull Island [off South Carolina] if he wishes; asks to have certain wines from his cellar sent to Washington or Alexandria [Va.].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 23 cm. x 18.5 cm.

25. 1822, Apr. 10. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

He has presented a petition to the House asking Congress to compensate Gladsmith and Roderick for their services in arresting and bringing to justice certain pirates; they are entitled to only \$30,000 unless "some respectable persons" vouch for their account for extra services; he has persuaded the committee to delay its report until Johnson's brother and "the Marshall" vouch for the account.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 21 cm.

26. 1822, July 28. CAPTAIN JAMES RENSHAW, [U. S. Navy], U. S. S. *John Adams*, Norfolk, Va. To [J. R.] POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

He has been ordered to proceed off Charleston with the ship *John Adams* to receive Poinsett for passage to Vera Cruz; he will arrive at Charleston by August 10.

A. L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

27. 1822. [Mexico City, Mexico]

Memorandum: list of eleven officers and ten privates rescued from a Mexican jail by Poinsett in 1822.

1 p. 27.5 cm. x 21 cm.

28. [1822] [COL.] LORENZO CHRISTIE, [Altamira, Mexico]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Altamira, Mexico]

Prisoners released from Mexican jail through P[oinsett's] intercession send thanks; their petition to the Emperor for a trial had had no response; their imprisonment due to false reports by some of their own party, chiefly Europeans, who did everything possible to injure the Americans; he [Christie] has sent Poinsett a list of those wishing to return to the United States; whole party of 39 marched to Tampico, by Emperor's orders, to board U. S. S. *John Adams*, upon information received through Judge Austin; they would have starved at Altamira had not Poinsett ordered Mr. Arvel, the Ameri-

can agent there, to provide subsistence; he [Christie] hopes to inform public in United States of Poinsett's action in this case.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

29. [1822] Memorandum: list of 39 officers and privates released from prison in Mexico by J. R. Poinsett.

Unsigned document. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 17 cm.

30. 1823,¹ Jan. 7. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

"I am extremely glad to hear that the college [of Charleston] is in so flourishing a state. . . . Prosperity of our state depends upon that institution, for its graduates must govern us"; discussion in Congress on Greek question, which he succeeded once in postponing, is hourly expected; it is absurd to assume a risk in that cause, which does not remotely affect interests of United States; "all the resolutions of the Legislatures in the Union united to all the memorials of the patriotic and Christian meetings will not influence me on this question"; he will speak in opposition to Mr. [Daniel] Webster on the question; he [Poinsett] is in poor health, and is being treated by Dr. Holcome; describes his treatment; "I am able to attend my duties in the house but not my duties to the ladies."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

31. 1823. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]. To COL. JOHN JOHNSON, JR., Charleston, S. C.

Wants to know what a recent experiment shows concerning quantity of copper produced from the ore; will deliver his message to Major [James] Hamilton, and will assist him; business is dull here; "Mr. President [Monroe] has taken high ground, and I believe the nation will sustain him with respect to this continent"; will oppose the Greek question in the House; "Nothing in my opinion can be more absurd than a romantic statesman"; believes there will be a caucus late in the session.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

32. [1823] J[AMES] M[ONROE], Washington, D. C.]. To [J. R.] POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

"Will you be so kind as to call here for a few minutes this morning?"

A. N. S. 1 p. 20 cm. x 12 cm.

¹ This letter, probably incorrectly dated, seems to have been written in 1824.

33. 1824, May 4. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Wants to know which of the northern and eastern merchants residing in Charleston are most influential; "I am intimate with the leading men from that part of the country and they will use their influence in my favor"; business dull in Washington; health is tolerable; delay in publication of his book [*Notes on Mexico*] due to printer and to himself; he has rewritten it, and incorporated information on agriculture and commerce; it will be out "next week," according to Mr. [Robert?] Walsh.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

34. 1825, Jan. 12. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To JOS. [JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.]

Has received box of sixty medals; they are well executed, but the likeness is so dissimilar to the original "that they will not please where we are in the habit of seeing him every day"; Thomson, a bookseller on Pennsylvania Ave., is taking charge of their sale; asks him to send a work in Spanish, [*El Espanol*], from his [Poinsett's] library to Mr. [George] Ticknor of Boston; he is not interested in business in Washington; two great parties are nearly balanced for elections; weaker parties trying to keep their partisans together; Mr. [John Q.] Adams' chances are improved; the interests of Mr. [Henry] Clay and Mr. [William] Crawford would lead them "to espouse that party . . . but no men in this Country can exert great influence in transferring their party"; Clay cannot transfer even Kentucky to Mr. A[dams]; expects election to be harmonious and dignified; is taking care of himself by neglecting the trivial matters now before the House.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

35. 1825, Feb. 4. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Sends reply made by [Robert G.] Hayne to attack on him [Poinsett] in *Rd. Enquirer*; the decision of the Presidential election is a most contemptible business and a disgrace to the nation; criticizes Mr. [Henry] Clay's actions in the matter; has been offered the mission to Mexico again; refused again; "The whole subject will be known for the President cannot help talking"; health tolerably good, but glad the session will be short; has little doubt of the election of J. Q. A[dams].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19 cm.

36. 1825, Feb. 8. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To [JAMES MONROE, Washington, D. C.]

Encloses letter from Gen. [George] Izard requesting his [Poinsett's] influence to procure him the appointment to Mexico; he [Poinsett] told him there was little chance of it; Monroe's intended appointment of Izard as governor of Arkansas may be refused because of pride; requests commission as cadet at West Point for Allen Smith, son of Joseph Allen Smith; a commission was granted to son of Mr. [Thomas?] Lowndes on a subsequent application.

Endorsed in Monroe's hand, "Mr. Poinsett, Genl. Izard."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

37. 1825, Mar. 3. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

House is assembled for last time to see bills signed; no quorum; apologized for not speaking on bill for suppression of piracy; felt he was more useful to constituents by preserving his standing in the House, often destroyed by members through too much public speaking; will either sail for the Mediterranean or come home.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

38. 1825, Mar. 10. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To Jos. [JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.]

Encloses list of books which he brought from France and which are to be sent to New York; will sell military and Italian theatre books "bought of Nelson at the request of Hamilton"; Mr. C. C. Cambreleng of New York will forward books to him [Poinsett].

A. L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

39. 1825, Mar. 27. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Has refused numerous applications for position in his mission to Mexico, because there is no allowance for a private secretary, there is little to do, and "the society of Mexico is only calculated to give or to confirm dissipated habits"; son [Edward] of Colonel Tayloe will go as private secretary, defraying his own expenses; a Dr. Frick of Baltimore, a son of Mr. [Joseph] Hopkinson of Philadelphia, and a son of Mr. Lawrence of New York will also be in his suite, all of them without fees; there is no diplomatic career in Mexico.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 34.5 cm. x 20 cm.

40. 1825, Apr. 4. J. R. POINSETT, Norfolk, Va. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Will sail within an hour; stopping at Charleston would delay him too much; cannot recall whether Mr. [John C.] Calhoun's friends repaid the \$1,000 he lent Calhoun last year; requests Johnson to write Calhoun about it, offering to take his bond.

A. L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

41. 1825, Aug. 21. D[AVID] PORTER, Washington, [D. C.]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

Acknowledges his letter of July 6; the sailing of the *Alfred* gives him opportunity for a reply; his difficulties with the United States government [over the Puerto Rican affair] may operate against him in Mexico, but in America they have raised him in the estimation of the people and of the navy; the press eulogizes his conduct; he has been suspended for six months on full pay; the incident has done him no harm, though he has some enemies; encloses a letter from an officer of the navy which shows the effect of the news that he [Porter] may go to Mexico; "I shall look anxiously for the invitation to serve in Mexican Navy you speak of. . . . My mind is made up . . . I think I see before me a bright field for glory"; does not understand the ranking system in the Mexican navy, but supposes he will have same rank as did Lord [Thomas] Cochrane; sends regards to Mr. [John] Mason.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 33 cm. x 19.5 cm.

Enclosure missing.

42. 1825, Sept. 24. PABLO OBREGON, Mexican Minister, New York, [N. Y.]. To DAVID PORTER, [Washington, D. C.]

The Mexican government accepts with pleasure his [Porter's] offer to serve in the Mexican navy; he will be appointed captain, which is the highest class.

Cy. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

43. 1825, Oct. 6. D[AVID] PORTER, Washington, [D. C.]. To PABLO OBREGON, New York, [N. Y.]

Will resign his commission in the United States Navy only if Mexico gives him a rank sufficiently high to justify so important a step; asks how the rank offered him in Mexican navy corresponds to ranks in the British and American navies; rank more important to

him than emoluments, but desires information in regard to pay; after these details are settled, he will ask the Mexican government whether "after what has transpired in this country with regard to me since the departure of Mr. Poinsett for Mexico" his services will still be acceptable.

Cy. S. 5 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

44. 1825, Oct. 25. D[AVID] PORTER, Washington, [D. C.].
To PABLO OBREGON, Washington, [D. C.]

Sends him a volume published by the United States government, containing the official account of the proceedings resulting from his activities on the shores of Puerto Rico; pay offered by the Mexican government satisfactory; the only consideration which could now interfere with his entering the service of the Mexican navy would be the possible objection of Mexican government to proceedings of American government concerning the Foxardo [Puerto Rican] affair; rank is lower than he expected, but hopes to advance by being useful.

Cy. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

45. 1825, Oct. 25. D[AVID] PORTER, Washington, [D. C.].
To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City, Mexico]

Encloses correspondence between himself and Obregon; cannot send him book published by government as it is too voluminous; asks him to get information concerning emoluments in the Mexican navy, and whether he may take his staff with him; he has many applications from officers in the United States Navy who wish to enter the service of the Mexican navy, but he does not know what encouragement to offer them.

Cy. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

For enclosures *see* entries 42, 43, 44.

46. 1825, Oct. 31. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico.
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

His work in Mexico is so interesting and exacting that he must neglect his friends and private affairs; he has been successful in opposing and defeating English diplomatic aims in Mexico hostile to United States; the British chargé d'affaires [Henry G. Ward] wrote to [George] Canning [Prime Minister of England] that Poinsett was acquiring overwhelming influence in Mexico and was using it unwisely; he [Poinsett] notified Mr. [Rufus] King of what had hap-

pened in Mexico, and that he opposed Great Britain only when she attempted to create a European party in America or to prevent Mexico from becoming "a member of the Great American family"; the controversy has caused him much trouble; his own negotiations are at a standstill because of disagreement over "a very important provision" and a change of minister of state in Mexico.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

47. 1825. H[ANNAH] G. L[OVELL]. To J. R. POINSETT

Expresses gratitude for Poinsett's affection and kindness to her and her children since the death of her husband; laments the personal loss sustained in the death of Poinsett's sister; sends him medicine for relief of headaches.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24 cm. x 20 cm.

48. 1826, Apr. 16. D[AVID] PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

Arrived yesterday in Vera Cruz; will leave next day for Mexico City; has had difficulty in finding a conveyance; Mexican naval affairs in wretched condition; believes the Mexican government plans a complete reorganization of Mexican navy by American officers.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

49. 1826, May 25. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Johnson's letter of January 30 just arrived; it would be better to send letters through a correspondent in New York or Philadelphia than through the Department of State; the fire in Charleston was costly to his [Poinsett's] estate; asks Johnson to have Noisette send him cuttings of some plants he wishes to introduce into Mexico; opposition party [in Congress] was unwise in making its stand on question of Panama mission; on this question Mr. [John Q.] Adams is "in unison" with the wishes of the nation, but it is to be regretted that Adams thought it necessary to publish his [Poinsett's] correspondence while negotiations are still pending; expects to conclude a not unfavorable treaty; Mexicans agree with him in disapproving Mr. Adams' attitude on Cuban question; he has come out the victor in his controversies with the British chargé d'affaires, [Henry George] Ward; Mr. [Bernard E.] Bee's criticisms have made no impression on him.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

50. 1826, July 26. D[AVID] PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico].
To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

Has assumed command of the Mexican forces; customary observances were followed; the Mexican officers are quarrelsome; he hopes with time, patience, and perseverance "to make something of them"; his accommodations in the Castle are like a dungeon; asks Poinsett to write; "there is nothing can interest me now but letters from my friends in Mexico and from my family."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 33 cm. x 19.5 cm.

51. 1826, Aug 15. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico].
To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City, Mexico]

Thanks him for his interest in his [Porter's] affairs; requests Poinsett to notify him of the attitude of the Mexican government toward him; he has had no encouragement from Gomez Pedraza [Secretary of War in Mexico]; he is eager to do his duty and to please; the errors he has made have been due to his ignorance of the language, laws, customs, etc., of Mexico; his suggestions for improvement of the marines have been rejected.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 30.5 cm. x 21 cm.

52. 1826, Sept. 6. D[AVID] PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico].
To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

He is dealing with savages; Landara, especially, gave him trouble; could not longer bear his insults and so had him and his officers arrested; sent Landara's troops to Sacrificios; the governor of the place and the inhabitants approve his course of action; he wishes he could be commended as Poinsett is for his influence; he has requested [Gomez] Pedraza to appoint him brigadier general in order to gain more respect and assure his position.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 34.5 cm. x 20 cm.

53. 1826, Sept. 30. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico].
To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

He anticipates prospect of getting to sea and of accomplishments that will be of satisfaction to himself and of honor to his country; sees evidence that Mexican government has greater interest in its navy than at any previous time; Pramos Arispe wants to know his plans for the navy; asks him [Poinsett] to discuss these plans with

Arispe; Porter feels he must get to sea, though he has no seamen and no officers; the latter must come from the United States; “. . . If they make officers of Mexicans, they must make them of the next generation, not of this . . .”; Mexican principles are good when their interests are not concerned; in doing his duty he interferes with their interests, so they are trying to destroy him; feels that he has the support of the President [of Mexico] and of Arispe; asks Poinsett to use his influence to have him [Porter] raised to rank of brigadier general to effect a public benefit.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 30.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

54. 1826, Nov. 10. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Acknowledges receipt of plants and of letter enclosing “the Judge’s Eulogy on Mr. Jefferson,” which is worthy both of the subject and of the judge; he hopes to prevent the revolutionary outbreak in Mexico which is feared; “large armies are the bane of Liberty”; the American party which he created in Mexico was victorious in late election; the opposition wishes to nullify the election; if this is done, bloodshed cannot be avoided; Colonel Cleary’s marriage in Charleston will mortify the family; he [Poinsett] will leave Mexico unless he is nominated to succeed [Richard C.] Anderson [as delegate to Congress of Panama]; he has done more to develop an American party than any other citizen of the United States could do in Mexico, because of his knowledge of the people and country.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20.5 cm.

55. 1826, Nov. 20. SAM[UE]L L. SOUTHARD, [Secretary of the Navy], Washington, [D. C.] To [J. R.] POINSETT, [Mexico City, Mexico]

For financial reasons, he must decline to succeed Poinsett if and when he resigns from his position; it is important to public interests that Poinsett retain his position for some time to come; fears that the opposition of coming session of Congress will be directed towards himself; he follows the principle that he owes his first duty to the administration as long as he is in the Cabinet; “I cannot partake in council & oppose in action”; the nation is supporting the administration on the Panama mission; the administration has as yet sustained no losses in public opinion, judging by elections.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

56. 1826, Dec. 5. D[AVID] PORTER, *Libertad*, Sacrificios, [Mexico]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

He is on point of sailing with the frigate, two brigs, and a schooner, all tolerably well-manned and supplied; sends respects to gentlemen of the legation; his destination is secret.

A. L. S. 1 p. 33 cm. x 21.5 cm.

57. 1826, [Dec.?] 16. JEDEDIAH S. SMITH, [hunter and trapper], Port of Landing, New California. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

Detained by the governor general of this province and requests the aid of United States plenipotentiary to Mexico; he left St. Louis with a party of sixty men for a hunting and trapping expedition which suffered many privations *en route*; found a cave of black salt near a tributary river of the Colorado; he named both river and cave for President Adams; met Indians who gave them food, exchanged some horses with them, and told them how to reach the missions of California; the commandant of San Gabriel seized his arms and notified the governor general at San Diego of Smith's arrival; he [Smith] asked for horses, and for permission to traverse the country to the Bay of San Francisco; went to San Diego with Captain Cunningham of the ship *Courier*, of Boston, and there was questioned by the governor general, who though treating him well, is detaining him on suspicion of being a spy; is afraid he will miss his valuable spring hunt.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 31 cm. x 20 cm.

58. 1827, Jan. 3. GERARD C. BRANDON [Governor of Mississippi], Jackson, Mississippi.

Testimonial certifies the character of General David Dickson, about to leave United States for public service [in Mexico].

Signed by Gerard C. Brandon, Abb. L. Hatten, Nathaniel Robbins, Cowles Meade, J. Moore, Solomon Weathersby, Jno. L. Witherspoon, John Henderson, Ch. B. Green, Robert Eddington, Peter Quin, Thos. Cotton, Archd. Dunbar, Philip Dixon, David Cleveland, Thos. S. Sterling, Wm. J. Austin, A. Butler, Abm. M. Scott, Tho. Torrance, Hamilton Cooper, John Wood, Harden D. Bunnels, Charles Lynch, Danl. Bernard, Jno. L. Iscom, A. P. Harris, Wm. Dowsing, F. Winstone, Joseph Cooper, Wistar Sparks, James Gibson, G. P. Smith, M. F. De Graffennin, A. McManus, Saml. N. Gilliland, G. E. Plummer, J. H. Morris, I. R. Nicholson, members of General Assembly of State of Mississippi.

Endorsed in Poinsett's hand, "General Dickson Certificate of Character—fr. Legislature of Mississippi 1827." 3 pp. 12.5 cm. x 7.5 cm.

59. 1827, Jan. 19. GEORGE ORD, Secretary of American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, [Pa.] To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

Notification of his election to membership in American Philosophical Society; members residing in foreign countries exempted from payment of admission fee of ten dollars.

L. S. 2 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

60. 1827, Jan. 19–20. D[AVID] PORTER, *Libertad*, Cayo Hueso, [Cuba]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

Laborde is blockading him with two or three frigates and three or four brigs; he has only one schooner besides the *Libertad*, but he is respected and feared by the enemy; he met Laborde off Matanzas, but the latter seemed eager to avoid battle; Laborde has pledged himself not to return to Cuba without Porter; if he [Porter] had a greater force he could easily annihilate the enemy's coastal trade and disgrace M. Laborde; it is impossible to discipline Mexican crews with Mexican officers; with American officers it is easy; Mexican officers are indolent and ignorant; he hopes the Mexican government will augment their naval forces, and will join forces with Colombia in order to meet Spain on equal terms; the government must be more provident and liberal; he is now supplying the squadron on his own credit; he asks him [Poinsett] to tell Mr. [Pramos] Arispe about these matters and ask for supplies; wants Poinsett to find out if Mexican government approves his proceedings thus far; if they are dissatisfied he will go home, for his life is only a succession of trials and tribulations; commerce of Cuba is paralyzed by his two brigs; Cuba can hardly afford seven vessels, with 2,500 men and 243 guns, to watch one small frigate; sends regards to gentlemen of the legation.

A. L. S. 7 pp. 33 cm. x 21.5 cm.

61. 1827, Feb. 24. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To Jos. [JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.]

Has sent him a box of minerals to be delivered to Mr. [Stephen] Elliott to be deposited in the museum [of Charleston Academy of

Fine Arts] until his return; he may then wish to extract a few specimens for his private mineralogical cabinet; a small collection is being sent to him from the Pacific by the frigate *United States*, which he will send to Johnson for same disposition; discovered and checkmated an extensive but not dangerous conspiracy among the regular clergy, betrayed to the captain general of the district by a mad friar, Padre Arenas, who will be shot as a traitor; conspiracy was last effort of clergy to save their waning power and influence; all those implicated are Europeans; he has been appointed by the President to Congress of Panama, or rather Tacubaya; Mr. Oliver wishes he [Poinsett] would accept mission to Naples after his return from Panama, but he feels Neapolitan claims should be adjusted at Paris; French liquidation of American claims would cause Naples to follow suit; asks him to tell [John S.] Richardson that he [Poinsett] has given importance to this mission.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

62. 1827, Mar. 2. GEORGE ORD, Corresponding Secretary of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

Letter thanks him for his contribution to the Society: *Compendio Gramatical para la Inteligencia del Idioma Tarahumar*.

L. S. 1 p. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

63. 1827, Mar. 3. D[AVID] PORTER, *Libertad*, Cayo Hueso, [Cuba]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

Is sending this letter *via* the *Herman*, which he is sending full of prisoners to Vera Cruz; situation unchanged in Cuba; Laborde still blockading him with a superior force; he [Porter] has to be on his guard; he needs a larger force; wants Poinsett to convince Mexican government of the importance of giving him adequate ships and supplies; "with the beggarly little force I have, I have made the War with Spain my own"; news from Havana indicates that a large French military force is expected; France and England are both demanding that Spain acknowledge the independence of the South American states; he is pleased to hear that Poinsett has been appointed to the Congress of Tacubaya; wants to know if the [Mexican] authorities approve of his activities with the squadron; he is in desperate need of men and funds and ships; if a Mexican officer had been in his place, the squadron could have been compelled by starvation to surrender to the enemy.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 33 cm. x 21.5 cm.

64. 1827, Mar. 15. D[AVID] PORTER, *Libertad*, [near Cuba]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

The bearer of this letter is Mr. F[rancis] B. Ogden who is visiting Mexico at his [Porter's] suggestion in order to try to introduce steam operations in Mexican naval warfare; he will show Poinsett Porter's letter to the minister; he [Porter] wants Poinsett to influence the Mexican authorities to build a steam vessel; he is delighted and flattered by the letters from the Mexican government; he plans to send off an expedition to the coast of Cuba tonight; hopes soon to be in position to do something brilliant; Laborde is already shy of him.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 31.5 cm. x 21 cm.

65. 1827, June 23. DAVID PORTER, *Libertad*, K[ey] West, [Fla.]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

He arrived after a passage of twenty-five days and escaped Laborde, who tried to intercept him on his return from Vera Cruz; everything is going well; if supplied with funds, he will keep up the squadron; he can do it for \$13,000 per month less than estimate of secretary [of war and marine] if he is allowed to manage it himself; the secretary has been suspicious of his honesty; he [Porter] never was accused of dishonesty in his connections with the United States Navy; he thinks the purser of the *Libertad*, brother-in-law of Castillo, has been giving the secretary false impressions of him; wants Poinsett to speak to Arispe on the subject; he is planning to send Mexican privateers to prey on the commerce of Spain and Cuba; hopes this will result in Spanish acknowledgment of the independence of Cuba; to effect this he needs the generous confidence of the government.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 32.5 cm. x 21 cm.

66. 1827, Aug. 15. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To Jos. [JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.]

He has been attacked by monarchical party in Mexico, and has replied to the "Manifesto of Vera Cruz"; when he has more leisure he will justify his conduct to the American nation; he would have betrayed his country had he failed through personal fear to oppose the overthrow of republican institutions of Mexico; has always laid aside personal feelings in the service of his country; his treaty, rejected at Washington, had to be drawn up in such a way as to controvert Mr. [George] Canning; he stood alone in his opposition to

the monarchial party, composed of aristocracy, higher clergy, and "the great of the land"; the only republican minister in Mexico, from Colombia, is involved with the aristocratic party, and is a "base born churl admitted to make love to a Countess"; in the end his [Poinsett's] efforts prevailed and the republican party triumphed; a young rebellion at Vera Cruz is being crushed by Gen. [Vicente] Guerrero; government would have been overthrown if not for his efforts; the President [Guadalupe Victoria] admitted this; plans had been made for simultaneous movements in all parts of Spanish America; Holy Alliance wanted European monarchs on the thrones if practicable, "or even his Satanic Majesty rather than those vile republicans"; these plans will continue to fail in Mexico, "so help me God"; he trusts the United States government will continue to support him; regards to Colonel [Robert Y.] Hayne and Major [James] Hamilton.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

67. 1827, Aug. 29. DAVID PORTER, N[ew] Orleans, [La.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City, Mexico]

He regrets the troubles and mortifications which Poinsett has endured, and hopes that the measures of the Mexican government against Vera Cruz will settle the matter; his honesty still doubted by secretary of war and marine [Gomez Pedraza]; he received insufficient funds; he believes the secretary is really his friend, but not others in the department; he is disgusted with petty intrigues and is beginning to repent his acceptance of a commission in Mexican navy; asks Poinsett to help him.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 32 cm. x 19 cm.

68. 1827, Sept. 8. G—— M——, Cardinal of Somaglia, Vatican, [Rome, Italy]. To FELICE CICOGNANI, U. S. Consul at Rome

The Cardinal Dean and Secretary of State has received petitions from the Mexican ecclesiastics and has been requested by United States Minister to Mexico [Poinsett] to lay them before the Pope; they have been referred to the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, to whom application must be made for the dispatch of the petitions already in progress.

Cy. In Italian.² 2 pp. 33 cm. x 20.5 cm.

² A translated copy of this letter is in the Poinsett Papers, IV, 165, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

69. 1827, Oct. 6. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Acknowledges receipt of letter of July 27; because he founded and organized the republican party, "Partido Yorkino," the monarchists violently oppose him; "... the Representative of a great and flourishing republic was not to be endured" because his activity conflicted with their theory that a great republic was a visionary scheme; the activities of the republicans have saved Mexico the troubles which Colombia has experienced; wants to know how the United States views "the attack and defence between the Sovereign State of Vera Cruz and myself"; has written to the government an explanation of his political conduct in Mexico; Mexican government is vain and extravagant; things are now quiet; has sent a pamphlet with history of events in Mexico to Mr. [Robert] Walsh for the *National Gazette*; wants it published if there is sufficient interest in it.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

70. 1827, Oct. 30. DAVID PORTER, *Libertad*, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

His return to Mexico was not expected by the Mexican government, but was necessary to avoid giving the United States government cause for complaint; he has not met one Spanish ship in his recent cruising around Cuba; Laborde is in port preparing for an expedition against either Mexico or Colombia, probably the latter; Spanish troops are expected; he [Porter] is getting ready for sea, but will not go out again in the *Libertad* in presence of a superior force; the crew is in good order; Mexicans with proper training make smart fellows; he hopes that Poinsett has not lost interest in Mexico because of unpleasant circumstances, and that he will continue to help the navy; Mr. [William] Taylor [United States consul] has informed him of the changes in Mexico, and he is afraid that Gomez Pedraza may go out; the arrival of Cortes, who will be the rallying point for all those who oppose him [Porter], will cause more trouble.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 32 cm. x 19.5 cm.

71. 1827, Nov. 9. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Has sent in care of Mr. [Churchill C.] Cambreleng a short account of a tour he has made; the note is for Mrs. Lane, who is to copy the document; critical circumstances in Mexico City forced

him to remain there rather than examine country more thoroughly; next election will fix ascendancy of popular party; monarchists and aristocrats would "fain plunge the country into a civil war in the faint hope of regaining their influence. This must not be"; danger lies in the states of Michoacan, Vera Cruz, and Puebla which have arisen against the authority of the government; he has been solicited to maintain peace; he has acquiesced in this; thinks it right since it is in interest of peace and preservation of existing institutions; believes civil war will be avoided.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

72. 1827, Nov. 10. DAVID PORTER, *Libertad*, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

Acknowledges his letter of Nov. 4; he is perturbed by Poinsett's account of the state of Mexico and especially of its treasury; discrimination has been shown against him in the payment of officers and men on other vessels; he [Porter] must borrow from his servant in order to live, while General Cortes is paid promptly; government treats him well, but he is the object of political intrigue and injurious rumor in Vera Cruz; he had no hand in the recent abolition of the Contaduría in Vera Cruz, though the old Contador was his enemy; the affairs of the Contaduría are now managed by the intendant, a friend of Porter's; but Porter's enemies, among them Cortes, have been turning the intendant against him; in regard to Poinsett's difference with the state of Vera Cruz, the act of the legislature of that state was unjustifiable, according to all accounts; Poinsett's reply was published at New Orleans, but Porter left before he could get public sentiment on the matter; the Secretary of War [Pedraza] has invited him to go to Mexico, but he can not afford it; all his prize money has been spent for the army; his messenger has just returned from the intendant, bringing a month's pay for all the officers; he will accept Poinsett's invitation [to come to Mexico City].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 32.5 cm. x 19 cm.

73. 1827, Nov. 14. D[AVID] PORTER, *Libertad*, [Vera Cruz, Mexico]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

Acknowledges letter of Nov. 8; will soon go to Mexico City; wants to render Mexico the best service in his power; his enemies still obstruct him, and give false ideas about him to the government; his recent dismissal of a surgeon named Cortez, a scoundrel, was severely criticized; the government frequently criticizes him; "But

you must be tired of hearing of my complaints and although it is some consolation to have a friend to complain to I am almost tired of harping on the same string"; he could complain about delay in payment and supplies.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 32.5 cm. x 19 cm.

74. [1827?] [DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, Mexico]

Reports his activities during his employment by the Mexican navy from November, 1826 to the present; he harried the commerce of Cuba with a squadron consisting of the *Libertad*, the *Bravo*, the *Victorian*, and the *Herman*; he escaped from Laborde at night; took his station at Key West, [Fla.], where Laborde blockaded him; the latter expected a Colombian squadron to join Porter, and so did not free any of his vessels for the protection of commerce; Porter kept Laborde occupied for nine months while Colombia "became tranquilized"; a longer stay at Key West meant trouble with the United States, so he withdrew to Pensacola [Fla.]; Laborde went into port to refit his squadron and Porter cruised on the coast of Cuba for three months; men returned to Key West; encloses list showing damage done to Spanish commerce; Laborde proceeded to Colombia after Porter went to Vera Cruz [Mexico]; Laborde was defeated in Colombia, since the party opposed to the government had been put down while Laborde was occupied blockading Porter; he [Porter] saved Colombia from a counter revolution, caused Cuba much expense, harried Cuban commerce, caused discontent among the Cubans, and gave the Mexican navy a reputation for activity and alertness; encloses copy of letter from [Mexican] government showing their appreciation of what he has done.

Unsigned document. 8 pp. 30.5 cm. x 21 cm.

Enclosures missing.

75. 1828, Jan. 12. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico].
To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City, Mexico]

He is receiving no protection from the government; he and his family are in want; he has been faithful and zealous in spite of ill treatment and neglect by Mexican authorities; sends copy of letter from Montoyd with translation, and copy of his [Porter's] correspondence with the intendant; asks Poinsett to induce them to assist him; feels they could pay him if they wanted to; they take his prize money to pay troops and salaries of others; if he is not paid he will not work.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 31 cm. x 21.5 cm.

76. 1828, Feb. 27. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City, Mexico]

The Mexican government is demanding an excessive number of documents in regard to the claim of Captain [David H.] Porter's [David Porter's nephew] mother; they are so determined not to pay the pension under the pretense that he first claimed it for his [D. H. Porter's] wife; asks Poinsett to give the enclosed papers to General Guerrero so that the latter may use his influence to have the pension paid; Mrs. Porter writes him that she has received no pay since last May; he feels he can never get anything out of the Mexican government, and he will leave their service as soon as possible; wants Poinsett to return his [Porter's] certificates soon, as they can be sold for ten dollars the hundred; Santa Anna will soon be in Vera Cruz; Moctezuma is more under the influence of his clerks than Pedraza was.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 29.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

Enclosure missing.

77. 1828, Feb. 29. DAVID PORTER, *Libertad*, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

His nephew, Captain David H. Porter, was killed on the brig *Guerrero* in a battle with the Spanish frigate *Lealtad* mounting sixty guns; it was a gallant defense against a superior force; Mexico lost a fine officer and a fine brig; besides the loss of his nephew, his son David is a prisoner; Captain [D. H.] Porter's family was entirely dependent on him; the Mexican government has an opportunity of showing whether it is just and generous; Hawkins in the *Herman* captured a privateer brig in the Bay of Matanzas; until he can communicate officially with the minister, asks Poinsett to notify him of Captain Porter's death; also wants a force to go out and meet Laborde.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 30 cm.

78. 1828, Feb. 29. DAVID PORTER, *Libertad*, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City, Mexico]

He is consoled in the loss of his nephew [Captain David H. Porter] by the good feelings manifested at Vera Cruz; many were killed in the battle and the frigate [*Lealtad*] was badly damaged; the *Guerrero* did not surrender until the last moment; two brigs attacked her first, near Morro, then the frigate came up; this was a concerted plan; with good officers and men he can soon end the war; the vessel Hawkins took was the *Panchita*, with a cargo of

sugar, coffee, and cigars bound for Barcelona; wants Poinsett to tell Pedraza that he needs an interpreter and writers for his official correspondence; he is sending \$500 for the sufferers in Havana.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

79. 1828, Mar. 8. DAVID PORTER, *Libertad*, [Vera Cruz, Mexico]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City, Mexico]

Wanted to send him the official account of the action [in which Capt. David H. Porter was killed] but failed to get it ready; it will be printed tomorrow; the greatest naval nation in the world could be proud of that battle; the account has just reached him, and he encloses it; wants to know what impression the action has made in Mexico [City]; he will fight the Spaniards to avenge his nephew's death, but he needs ships, men, and money; asks him to show the papers to General Guerrero.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

80. 1828, Mar. 14. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To DR. JOSEPH JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

His treaties are on the way to Washington; ". . . if the Senate is not satisfied they will be unreasonable"; will come home as soon as ratifications are exchanged; hopes excitement at home will have subsided by that time; he would not like to be forced into open opposition to Mr. [John Q.] Adams, who has behaved handsomely; his [Poinsett's] portrait has arrived in Mexico, and does credit to the artist, [Charles] Fraser; he is pleased that [John S.] Richardson's son [Francis] has turned out well; he will procure and send letters for him *via* the April packet, one for General [Marquis de] Lafayette, who will present him to the professors, and one for D[avid] B. Warden, former United States consul [in Paris], an excellent cicerone, and a litterateur; Warden can tell Francis how and where to live and what lectures to attend.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 23 cm. x 18.5 cm.

81. 1828, Mar. 27. G[OMEZ] PEDRAZA, Secretary of War and Navy, Mexico

Official document stating that the Republic of Mexico has granted to the widow of David H. Porter a pension of 180 pesos a month, to go to his children at the death of his widow.

Printed leaflet. In Spanish. 2 pp. 21 cm. x 15 cm.

82. 1828, May 10. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico].
To J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico

The terms of the loan under consideration are too favorable for the Mexican government; the interest is only six percent; the commission for negotiating the loan is very low, because it is not expected that much will have to be spent in bribing gentlemen near the government; if bribery is necessary in some cases, the commission could be stated at five percent "in which case our half would be ceded by the parties here. The opinion of the parties is that E. should be interested in this . . . to give it success"; they fear that E—, if not drawn into the project, may execute a similar scheme through his monied friends, to the prejudice of the originators of the loan; the parties are Americans, and they believe they can raise \$5,000,000 in the United States provided the government gives the necessary pledges and Congress makes the necessary enactment; this information will enable Poinsett to secure Mr. E. in the affair; secrecy is necessary to the success of the plan; the parties will furnish an outline of the plan after hearing favorably from Poinsett; the contractors for the loan are to have no right to say how it shall be expended, but they hope it will be applied exclusively to the navy; it is expected that the duties will pay principal and interest in five years; the loan will enable the navy to harass the coasts of Spain and Cuba; "It is only taxing the grog drinkers to support the Navy"; he has heard nothing of Stanley; he hears that Laborde plans to blockade Vera Cruz.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

83. 1828, May 21. DAVID PORTER, [Vera Cruz, Mexico].
To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

Encloses a letter which he has received from Mrs. Porter; asks him to talk to [Gomez] Pedraza in her behalf; he will be distracted if his family is caused any distress by his joining the Mexican service.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

84. 1828, June 3. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico].
To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

His son Thomas died on June 1 from "that terrible disease so fatal in this climate"; Thomas was his favorite son; this is his punishment for loving him too much; he cares now for nothing in the world; there is no consolation for his loss; the *Natchez* is about to anchor at Sacrificios, [Mexico]; [Jose Ignacio] Esteva [Secretary of

State] has given the officers only a month's pay; he has written freely to [Gomez] Pedraza on the subject.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

**85. 1828, June 16. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico].
To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]**

He has sent to the intendant for the pension due the mother of his late nephew [Captain David H. Porter]; it will not be paid until the intendant has proof that Captain Porter left a widow, that she is living, and that she has given power of attorney to some one in Mexico to receive the amount due; the intendant insisted that an export duty be paid on the prize money, \$300 to \$400, due Captain Porter; he has written today to the Minister resigning his command; the intendant and [José] Esteva wish to drive all Americans out of the service; he [Porter] asks Poinsett to have the pension paid quarterly; it is believed that the commissariat, the intendancy, and the Contaduría [of Vera Cruz] are no longer subject to [Gomez] Pedraza, but are under the exclusive control of Esteva; "if this is the case, adieu to the Marine of Mexico"; he is uneasy at Poinsett's silence; he has been ordered to go to the north, but has no hope that he will go; asks what has been done about the allowance to his family; has not heard from Stanley, and so returns the bill of sale; Esteva's friends are confident he will be elected president, saying he has the support of the states of Vera Cruz, San Luis Potosi, Pueblo, Tabasco, and Yucatan; Esteva cares only for his own interests; he is bad and corrupt.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

**86. 1828, July 4. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico].
To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City, Mexico]**

He gets no support from the Mexican government, and wants to leave its service; wants Poinsett to find out on what terms they will release him; he would leave them without ceremony if he were independent; he would remain if there were a chance of accomplishing anything with the marine; officers and men are leaving every day; those who fought against the *Guerrero* are now starving in Vera Cruz; Gomez Pedraza supports the Vera Cruz intendant, which renders Porter's situation quite hopeless; he will send Poinsett a letter from Pedraza in regard to the pension for relatives of his nephew [Captain David H. Porter]; if the pension is not paid, he will publish the letter; this is perhaps the last time he will trouble Poinsett; regards to Mr. [John] Mason.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21 cm. x 15 cm.

87. 1828, July 21. DAVID PORTER, [Vera Cruz, Mexico]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

Acknowledges his letter of July 14; a letter from Gomez Pedraza reached him at the same time; Pedraza and the president [Victoria] are too weak to control Esteva; almost everybody has deserted the navy; nobody will serve, for the men are never paid; this is the fault of Esteva and the intendant; he is sorry to trouble Poinsett so often, but there is no one else who can aid him; he has been ill, and the bite of a tarantula kept him in bed a month; he has asked Pedraza for a leave of absence to the north; he can no longer stand this country; asks what has been done about the payment of his allotment to his wife; he himself has received nothing for four months.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21 cm. x 15 cm.

88. 1828, July 23. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

He wrote to [James?] Hamilton that he will serve if his former constituents elect him; discusses cultivation of olive trees; Johnson may get some cuttings from General C. C. Pinckney's place near Cooper River; Poinsett wants him to experiment with planting cuttings.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

89. 1828, July 28. PEDRO J. YROGOYEN, Chihuahua, [Mexico]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City, Mexico]

Advises him that he has been elected a member of the Junta Patriotica of Chihuahua.

A. L. S. In Spanish. 2 pp. 30.5 cm. x 21 cm.

90. 1828, July 28. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

He has written for permission to return to United States; he can no longer endure the insults of "the Intendente [of Vera Cruz] and his gang"; asks Poinsett to obtain this permission for him, accompanied by an order for funds for his expenses; hopes Mr. [John] Mason has recovered; "Since writing the above information has reached me from the United States which makes my return indispensable. I have communicated it to Mr. Mason, ask him to show you my letter."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 30.5 cm. x 21.5 cm.

91. 1828, July 30. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico].
To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

There is no remedy but absence for what he suffers; he is tormented to death with attempts to thwart and injure him; "I did not believe there was such a set of Devils in existence"; if he may not go to the north, he will tender his resignation; if they will not accept it he will desert; if he cannot desert he will die; "Call on [Gomez] Pedraza immediately and tell him that you know there is an imperious and absolute necessity for my going immediately—ask Mr. Mason to show you my letter."

A. L. S. 1 p. 30.5 cm. x 21.5 cm.

92. 1828, Sept. 24. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To Jos. JOHNSON, [Charleston, S. C.]

"I had hoped before now to have been on my way from this city of the moral plague"; has been detained by laziness of people; will leave for home as soon as Mexico has ratified treaty; civil dissension is making his stay there even more unpleasant; Gomez Pedraza, Secretary of War, was elected President by majority of one vote over General Vicente Guerrero, "the people's idol"; the people dispute validity of election by arms, charging that Pedraza's party made improper use of military forces and was aided by wealth of monarchist party of aristocrats, clergy, and Europeans; standard of revolt under Santa Anna was raised in Vera Cruz; whole country is in violent state of commotion; he is glad that Johnson put up his [Poinsett's] name for Congress; asks him to "restrain the wild spirits who in their madness talk of separation"; had no time to review [Henry George] Ward's book [*Mexico in 1827*].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

93. 1828, Oct. 18. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico].
To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

The public is losing interest in the Santa Anna affair; they will give him a "warm reception" at Vera Cruz; "I shall have no more scruples about shedding Mexican blood, than I should have in shedding any other blood"; he would enjoy going to Perote, erecting a battery within range of the castle, and demonstrating that American fighting is superior to Mexican; Santa Anna has courage and enterprise and the affection of his troops which will enable him to hold out a long time; Mara's correspondence with Santa Anna was intercepted, and Mara was arrested; there is proof that Mara sent \$1,300 to Fuente; he [Porter] is patrolling the coast to prevent escapes; the

marine is in wretched condition; the men are poorly clothed and poorly fed; he [Porter] has taken lodgings on shore; he has no confidence in the government; the credit of Mexico is ruined at home and abroad; Esteva is to blame for it; the moving principle of the Mexicans is self-interest; advises Poinsett to be careful on his way out of Mexico; it is rumored that Obregon's death [in September] was murder [not suicide], and that Mexico should retaliate; Mexicans are so prejudiced against foreigners that they think of them all as Jews; he wishes he too could leave Mexico.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 21 cm. x 15 cm.

94. 1828, Oct. 29. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

Acknowledges his letter of October 22; his family has not been attended to; he has suffered so long and so much that nothing can crush him lower than he now is; it is almost certain that General [Andrew] Jackson will be elected [President]; a large expedition from Cuba, at least 10,000 men, will soon be at Vera Cruz; the Mexicans are badly situated to meet it, because of rebellion, poverty, disputed election, military despotism, lack of a marine, and an untrustworthy army; Santa Anna's men are in miserable condition, and are traveling through the mountains by the most difficult road; he is beginning to think the Mexican people unworthy of his interest in them.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21 cm. x 15 cm.

95. 1828, Oct. 29. [DAVID PORTER], Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

He sends him a "*Gov' Paper*" by which he may see the prevailing opinion in Vera Cruz, and will be confirmed in his determination to go by way of Tampico; he could not go through Vera Cruz without insult or injury.

A. L. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

96. 1828, Nov. 25. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

Acknowledges his letter of Nov. 19; he laments the wretched condition of Mexico, caused by corruption, intrigue, and imbecility; he regrets that he ever came to Mexico, where he has received only ill treatment; asks Poinsett to do something for him in United States; he has done his duty faithfully; the election of [Andrew] Jackson [as

President] is said to be certain; the Spaniards are dying fast from smallpox and yellow fever; Laborde is in Havana with his squadron; Santa Anna and the expected Spanish invasion do not interest these apathetic Mexicans; the Mexican who was murdered was named Rodrigues; he was generally esteemed in Vera Cruz; it is reported that his children and their nurse also were murdered; the affair has excited no interest; it is an every day occurrence; he [Porter] will follow Poinsett's advice to do no more than his duty in the future; he regrets having taken any part in the Santa Anna affair, though otherwise Santa Anna would have come to Vera Cruz; his only thanks have been further ill treatment; [Jose] Esteva is the cause of the prejudice against him; Esteva has poisoned the president's mind; he [Porter] wishes Poinsett a speedy departure from Mexico.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 30 cm. x 21 cm.

97. 1829, Feb. 11. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Has drawn on him for \$2,000, since the late revolution in Mexico has augmented his expenses and prolonged his stay; according to James Hamilton's last letter, people at home expect pledges from him concerning the tariff question; his position in opposition to dissolution of the Union is well known; he will not be induced by ferment to swerve from his principles; but he cannot regard with indifference any act of the government opposed to the interests of his state and city; his "pledges" can be found in the whole course of his public life; to leave Mexico in present critical times would be abandonment of his public duty.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

98. 1829, Feb. 12. JAMES LLOYD HUGHES, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]

Protest of James Lloyd Hughes of Norfolk, [Va.], asks the assistance of William Taylor, United States Consul in Vera Cruz, [Mexico], in procuring his discharge from the service of Mexico, into which he was forced against his will; on December 13, 1820, Hughes arrived at San Blas, [Mexico], in the ship *Panther* of Boston, [Mass.], William Thomson, master; two days later he was imprisoned because the *Panther* was engaged in smuggling, of which Hughes had no knowledge; he was kept in prison in San Blas for six months, and then compelled to serve in the army of Spain until Tepic [Mexico] surrendered to the Mexican republicans, who then made him prisoner and forced him to serve in the Mexican army.

D. S. 1 p. 31.5 cm. x 21.5 cm.

99. 1829, Feb. 20. *Noticioso Comercial Y Cientifico*, No. 598, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]

On pages 2-3 is a communication by "Un Patriota" to the editors, referring to an earlier letter by "Un Marino," in which the writer asks why the government [of Mexico] has withheld payment of a pension to Captain David H. Porter's mother; "Un Patriota" replies that upon Porter's death the pension was claimed for his widow; the government now required certain documents, either supporting this claim or showing why it should be invalidated; since no documents have yet been received the government has been unable to grant the pension; "Un Patriota" asks if it is the government which discredits the nation's good name, or if it is the writer ["Un Marino"] who offends and condemns it, attributing to it a defect which could never happen; this history of Captain Porter's case answers the question of "el Marino" and satisfies the public that the government had good reasons for refusing to make a statement before this time.

"Un Patriota" appears at the end of the article. Enclosed in the journal is a supplement to a later journal which contains "Un Marino's" answer. See next entry.

Printed newspaper. In Spanish. 4 pp. 31.5 cm. x 21 cm.

100. 1829, Feb. [24?] *Suplemento al Noticioso [Comercial Y Cientifico]*, No. 602. [*Supplement to Commercial and Scientific Journal*], Vera Cruz, [Mexico]

In this supplement is a communication by "Un Marino" to the editors, in reply to the letter from "Un Patriota"; "Un Marino" says that the latter's statement that a pension was applied for by Captain David H. Porter's widow immediately after his death is unfounded; Porter was never married; his dependent family consisted of his mother and his younger brothers and sisters, and the pension was applied for on their account; it was not refused before the passage of the law of March 27, 1828, requiring certain documents to be submitted; some documents in this case were filed but were declared insufficient; others not required by the law were demanded; meanwhile the dependent family of Captain Porter was reduced to poverty; a letter from the secretary of war and navy to "Mr. Intendente" dated October 22, 1828, accompanied the documents in question; governments frequently are discredited within and without because of the improper conduct of their delegates; there are recent examples in Mexico of attempts to destroy the government, which had put its confidence in unworthy agents; recent changes show a desire on the part of congress and people to effect a reformation in this policy; when Captain Porter sacrificed his life for the honor of Mexico, he sought only to do his duty; he died a hero, confident that his de-

pendent family would be provided for; since congress has not disappointed his hopes, and public opinion sanctions the action, surely his intentions will not be defeated by trickery.

"Un Marino" appears at the end of the article. This supplement is enclosed in a copy of the paper, no. 598. See preceding entry.

Printed supplement. In Spanish. 1 p. 31 cm. x 19 cm.

101. 1829, Feb. 21. MOCTEZUMA, Dept. of War and Marine, Section 3, [Mexico City], Mexico. To [DAVID PORTER], Commander-in-Chief of Marine, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]

Although the Mexican Congress has granted a monthly pension of 180 pesos to the family of David H. Porter, it is required by law that the interested parties present credentials authorized by the Mexican legation in Washington before payment can be made; these requirements have not yet been satisfied; accordingly the order to pay the pension, about which Porter asked in his letter of Jan. 28, 1829, has not been forthcoming.

Cy. Signed by Porter. In Spanish. 1 p. 29.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

102. 1829, Feb. 26. DAVID PORTER, Vera Cruz, [Mexico]. To [GOMEZ PEDRAZA], Minister of War and Marine, [Mexico City, Mexico]

Acknowledges letter of February 21, 1829; he has studied the law of March 27, 1828, but has not been able to find reference to requirement of documents; requests that he be sent the documents already in the hands of the minister; the Republic [of Mexico] has bestowed a pension on the widow of David H. Porter, but more than a year has passed since Porter's death without payment; the deceased's mother, Porter's sister, is in a desperate position since her son's death; but the rumor that he [David Porter] has deceived the government in order to obtain the pension for his sister is false, and originated with Angel Huerta, an official of the ministry; David H. Porter was not married, hence he [David Porter] never petitioned for a pension for David H. Porter's wife; he has never practised fraud against the Mexican government.

Cy. S. In Spanish. 2 pp. 29.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

103. 1829, Mar. 10. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To [MARTIN VAN BUREN], Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

In an account of the Mexican revolution, the economic and political affairs of the nation, and of his diplomatic activities during his

residence in Mexico, depicts the historical background of the nation, its conquest by the Spaniards, the decadence of the aristocracy and clergy, degradation of the Indians, and misrule by the Spaniards; mentions Baron [Friedrich Von] Humboldt's voyage to and description of Mexico; describes the beginning of the revolution, the formation of political party groups under various leaders, intrigue of the clergy, nobles, and European Spaniards for a monarchical form of government; political antagonism between the Scottish and York Masons; hostility displayed toward him [Poinsett] as "the representative of a Republic"; his controversies with British chargé d'affaires; English, French, and monarchist hatred of the United States; and his efforts on behalf of the Republican Party.³

Cy. S. 44 pp. 33.5 cm. x 21 cm.

104. 1829, May 31. J. M. MONTROYD, Mexican Legation, Baltimore, [Md.]. To FAUSTO ACEDO, Commissioner of the State of Vera Cruz, [Mexico]

Order to pay Mrs. E. Porter 300 pesos due June 1, on account of the pension of Captain D[avid H.] Porter.

Cy. S. In Spanish. 1 p. 35.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

105. 1829, June 27. J. M. MONTROYD, Baltimore, [Md.]

As agent for the affairs of Mexico, he certifies that the monthly pension of 300 pesos, ordered August 7, 1827, by the secretary of war and navy to be delivered through the Mexican minister to the United States has been paid to Mrs. Evelina Porter from June 1, 1828, to June 1, 1829; he has given her warrants for that period against the commissary of Vera Cruz, [Mexico]; he sets his hand and seal and the seal of the legation to this statement.

Cy. In Spanish. 1 p. 31.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

106. 1829, Aug. 2. J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico. To M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Secretary of State, [Washington, D. C.]

General Teran has reported to the Mexican government that the United States is preparing to attack Texas and desires to annex it; quotes at length from Teran's letter of June 3, 1829, to a member of the Mexican government, in which Texas territory and inhabit-

³ This is a copy of a manuscript in The Department of State Archives, Dispatches from Mexico, IV, No. 166; printed in W. R. Manning, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, III, 1673-1685.

ants are described; Europeans insinuate that United States has ambitious designs concerning Texas.

Cy. 3 pp. 31.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

107. [1829, Aug. 7]. [J. R. POINSETT, Mexico City, Mexico]

An address⁴ to the Mexican legislature in defense against attacks made upon him by the legislature of Mexico; refutes their assertions that he has taken active part in the domestic affairs of the nation; defends his activities in the establishment of York Rite Masonry in Mexico; prefers republican ideals to foreign and monarchial influence.

A. Df. 21 pp. 34 cm. x 21 cm.

108. 1829, Oct. 7. R. L. COLT, Baltimore, [Md.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

There is a general impression that Poinsett has been ordered to negotiate with Mexico for acquisition of Texas in exchange for Oregon Territory; many people in United States would approve this, for they want to get rid of Oregon Territory, and establish a well defined southwestern border; suggests that the amount of the Mina claim, recognized as legal by Mexico, should be deducted from cash payment made by United States in the deal; Mr. [C. C.] Cambreleng has applied to Mr. Oliver for an advance of books in consequence of Poinsett's letter; Cambreleng will write to Poinsett by Mr. [Richard I.] Manning; mining stock is low in public estimation.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 21.5 cm.

109. 1829, Dec. 24. AGUEN GONZALES & CO., Mexico

"Liquidacion de varios creditos"; settlement of J. R. Poinsett's account with the customs house, Mexico.

D. S. 1 p. 27 cm. x 22 cm.

Enclosed with entry No. 455.

110. 1829, Dec. 25. W. W. WEST, *et al.*, [Mexico City], Mexico. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Mexico City], Mexico

Invites him to a testimonial dinner to be tendered him on January 1, by his fellow countrymen in Mexico; bears signature of F. Gossiot, A. Gomte, W. Bunce, C. C. Sebring, and W. W. West.

L. S. 1 p. 27 cm. x 22 cm.

⁴This is a draft in Poinsett's hand, unsigned, of his answer to the Mexican legislature; the original is in the Department of State Archives, Dispatches from Mexico, IV, No. 176; printed in W. R. Manning, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, III, 1691-1697.

111. [1829?] GEORGE FLOWER

Memorandum contains his observations on the expansion of the territory of the United States; Russia or Great Britain will gain foothold on the Pacific if United States fails to do so; he advocates the acquisition of California from Mexico by purchase; describes territory of California, and advantages to the United States of possessing it.

D. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

112. 1830, Apr. 2. J. K. KANE, Secretary of American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT

Thanks him on behalf of the society for his gift of Mexican antiquities and minerals.

L. S. 1 p. 25.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

113. 1830, Apr. 16. ROBERT OLIVER, *et al.*, Baltimore, [Md.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT

Invites Poinsett to a testimonial dinner to be given in his honor in Baltimore in appreciation of his public conduct and of the way in which, at great personal sacrifice and peril, he supported the character and dignity of an American envoy in his late mission [to Mexico].

Signed by Robert Oliver, Wm. Patterson, Thos. Tenant, Isaac McKim, Wm. West, R. B. Taney, G. W. Stewart, Geo. Hoffman, and Robert Gilmore. 1 p. 26.5 cm. x 21.5 cm.

114. 1830, May 11. Nashville, [Tenn.]

Newspaper clipping: committee appointed by Carter and Washington counties, [Tenn.] to consider practicability of construction of a road between Sandy River, Ky., and Jonesborough, [Tenn.] reports that there is no great obstacle to such a road, and that the aid of the federal government and of the governments of the states affected would be welcomed.

1 p. 12 cm. x 8 cm.

Enclosed with next entry.

115. 1830, May 25. J. G. M. RAMSEY, Mecklenburg, T[enn.?). To DR. JOSEPH JOHNSTON [*sic*], Charleston, S. C.

Encloses newspaper clipping [Nashville, May 11, 1830] covering question of connecting a branch of the Ohio River with the South

Atlantic cities by a land communication; public is interested in project; selection of river will depend upon terminal point of his [Johnson's] railroad [South Carolina R. R.?]; is pleased to hear of continued progress of the railroad, since it is bringing Mecklenburg nearer an Atlantic seaport; "its termination will be in fact a sea-port."

A. L. S. 1 p. 24 cm. x 20 cm.

For enclosure *see* preceding entry.

116. 1830, July 14. W. H. KEATING, Ph[iladelphi]a, [Pa.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Baltimore, [Md.]

He is gratified to see Poinsett, "one of S. C.'s most distinguished politicians," defending sound doctrines and opposing nullification; he wants to believe that most South Carolina citizens wish to adhere to the Union and that they needed only a leader.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

117. 1830, July 30. J. R. POINSETT, Frankford, [Pa.]. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

His influence with political friends in Charleston has been solicited on behalf of Edward J. Pringle, who professes to be a moderate and a Unionist; Poinsett believes him worthy; the Baltimore Railroad between Baltimore and Ellicot's Mills [now Ellicott City, Md.?] is strongly built; fare is 12½ cents; cars carry 25 persons each, are drawn by one horse at rate of 8 miles an hour, and are usually full; company's receipts from that source alone will exceed \$60,000 this year; the ride is pleasant and beautiful; a branch to Washington would facilitate travel between Baltimore and Washington, and would be profitable; he is regaining his health and strength; will go to New York for a short visit, after which he will return to South Carolina to fight the nullifiers; "[Robert J.] Turnbull's dinner speech actually made me sick . . . I would rather he should curse me than flatter me as he did [James] Hamilton."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

118. 1830, Nov. 22. J. R. POINSETT, Columbia, [S. C.]. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

He believes a majority is opposed to nullification, though his party lost the election for speaker; "low country members" [of legislature] favor a convention, as they have been taught to believe the legislature has the right to control a convention of the people; "upper country members," who want a convention in order to deprive the

parishes below of representation, "encourage these dupes to think as their leaders have taught them, and so . . . contribute to their own ruin"; the newspapers ought to explain the matter to the people; describes struggle in house over right of Rene Lurado [?] to qualify; "Rene will I think be returned upon your hands, so you must prepare for the contest"; asks him [Johnson] to furnish Yeadon with paint for the house; asks him to tell [Jacob?] Cardozo that he sent his father's certificate and wrote to the President [Jackson] about it.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

119. 1830, Dec. 6. Société de Géographie, President de la Commission Centrale, Paris, [France]. To M. le COLONEL POINSETT

Acknowledges his letter recommending Mr. Franck; latter has been welcomed with interest by the society, which has appointed a special commission to examine Franck's collection of Mexican antiquities.

A. L. S. Signature torn. In French. 1 p. 32 cm. x 21 cm.

120. 1831, Jan. 22. [SETH J. W. LUCKY], Secretary of Committee, Jonesborough, East Tenn.

Circular letter: committee [listed below] appointed for people of Washington and Carter counties [Tenn.] to investigate the means of establishing communication from state line of North Carolina to the "head of Steamboat navigation" on Sandy River, Ky.; committee proposes that meetings of delegates from interested counties in Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky be held on the first Monday in June, 1831; also proposes that meetings be held in adjoining counties of Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky, to determine propriety of course recommended by committee; results of deliberations by such committees to be reported to Seth J. W. Lucky, Secretary of the Committee, at Jonesborough.

Names printed after body of letter: John Kennedy, Thos. Emerson, Jacob Howard, Alfred W. Taylor, D. A. Deadericks, John G. Eason, J. P. Taylor, Elijah Embree, Robert Reeve.

Broadside, 3 columns. 1 p. 41 cm. x 31.5 cm.

This copy of letter was sent to Col. W. B. A. Ramsay by "D. A. D." See next entry for his note to Ramsay.

121. 1831, Jan. 22. D. A. D[EADERICKS, Jonesborough, Tenn.]. To COL. W. B. A. RAMSAY, Knoxville, [Tenn.]

The project [of connecting the Ohio River with cities on the Atlantic coast] will interest Knoxville; before long a steamboat will

ascend from Knoxville to Kingsport, [Tenn.]; proposed road will pass by latter place; Knoxville will have more direct communication with Ohio River and with places east of Louisville, [Ky.].

A. N. S. 1 p. 41 cm. x 31.5 cm.

Written on circular letter described in preceding entry.

122. 1831, Mar. 16. Knoxville, [Tenn.]

Clipping from *The Register*: the steamboat *Knoxville* will arrive shortly and thus open the way to greater markets for Tennessee.

1 p. 27.5 cm. x 7 cm.

Enclosed with entry 125.

123. 1831, Mar. 24. E. S. DURYEA, for Simms & Duryea, Charleston, S. C. To DAVID E. HUGER, [Charleston, S. C.]

Asks him to consult with Mr. James L. Petigru on matter of helping them [Simms and Duryea] financially; explains their financial obligations connected with their purchase of the *City Gazette* in January, 1830; now owe bills totaling \$2,261, which must be paid shortly; about \$6,500 in outstanding accounts is due them; asks for loan of \$2,000 at six per cent for five or six years with a second mortgage as security, or a loan of \$6,000, taking over the existing first mortgage held by Union Bank, to be repaid in six equal annual installments; under their ownership the circulation of the paper has increased [data given] and advertising patronage promises to do same; favorable balance of business for first year was \$2,875; he will substantiate these statements from the company's books; Mr. [William G.] Simms is out of town, but they had agreed on above proposition before he left.

L. S. 4 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

124. 1831, [Mar.?]. Newspaper clipping from the *Enquirer* [?], reprinted from the *Baltimore American*: an extract from a letter dated Vera Cruz, [Mexico], February 28, 1831, describes the execution of General [Vincente] Guerrero by President [Anastasio] Bustamente's administration.

1 p. 59 cm. x 7 cm.

125. 1831, Apr. 14. J. G. M. RAMSEY, Mecklenburg, [Tenn.?]. To H. S. DICKSON, physician, Charleston, S. C.

Encloses circular letter concerning proposed communication between Sandy River, Ky., and the North Carolina line; old outlet for

trade *via* Tennessee River and New Orleans unsatisfactory; proposed road should be connected with whatever is terminal point of South Carolina Railroad, now under construction; this will point the way for later continuation of railroad; Charleston important outlet for the South; South Carolina Railroad should be represented at Estelville, [Va.], conference; communication between South and West should be encouraged; "ideal lines" will not hold Union together but with trade connections "our Union will long survive the turbulence of faction and resist the attacks of jacobinism & disunion"; encloses clipping from Knoxville paper concerning steamboat navigation, the introduction of which above Muscle Shoals will aid in connecting Charleston with the West; asks him to give circular letter to Major Black; he [Ramsey] reached Knoxville in seven days after leaving Dickson in Charleston.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.
For enclosed clipping *see* entry 122.

126. 1831, May 17. WILLIAM ROACH, Clerk of City Council, [Charleston, S. C.]

Resolution from council minutes: J. R. Poinsett to represent Charleston at Estelville [Va.] convention for discussion of subject of transportation from the interior to the Atlantic.

A. D. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

127. 1831, June 10. HORATIO ALLEN, Knoxville, [Tenn.]. To Jos. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Reports to Johnson as president [of the South Carolina Railroad] of the proceedings of a public meeting at Knoxville concerning the proposed communication between the interior and the Atlantic seaboard; believes public attention is aroused; is leaving Knoxville by stage.

Written on page 3 of pamphlet, *Intercourse between the West and the Atlantic*.

A. L. S. 1 p. 33 cm. x 30.5 cm.
See next entry for pamphlet.

128. 1831, [June]. Knoxville, Tenn.

Intercourse between the West and the Atlantic. Contains an appeal to meeting of delegates at Estelville, Va., from Henry N. Cruger and Horatio Allen, representatives of South Carolina Railroad Co., to run the proposed road from the North Carolina line to

Sandy River, Ky., *via* a specified route; also contains the correspondence on authorization of Cruger and Allen as delegates.

Imprint on p. 3: "F. S. Heiskell, Pr. Knoxville, T."

Pamphlet, 3 pp.

129. 1831, June 20. HARTMAN BACHE, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT

Encloses three papers concerning the plans to connect the Savannah and Tennessee rivers; they may facilitate other operations having same object; outlines the route suggested in the papers.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

Enclosure missing.

130. 1831, Dec. 13. J. R. POINSETT, Columbia, [S. C.]. To JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

The wine mistakenly sent to his [Poinsett's] house in Charleston was intended for Mr. Oliver of Baltimore; "The majority in the delegation has turned out our best magistrate, and among them Mr. [Henry] Trescott . . . we all voted for him—on all questions we are 10 to 8 and it is so useless to contend, that we have resolved not to attend such meetings of our delegation in future—the only manner we have of evincing our disapprobation. . . . The majority in the Legislature has it all its own way and it is . . . useless to contend against them. They complain of the tyranny of the majority of Congress and are much more tyrannical themselves. They are . . . loading themselves with a burthen, which will in the end crush them."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

131. [1831] [Charleston, S. C.]

Appeal to legislature of South Carolina requests that a charter be granted to some company for construction of a railroad designed to conduct trade from Tennessee to Charleston; Charleston will benefit greatly.

Broadside, 3 columns. 1 p. 38 cm. x 30 cm.

132. 1832, Jan. 25. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, [Charleston, S. C.]

The President [Jackson] will not sign the Bank Bill if it should pass both houses; [Louis] McLane [Secretary of the Treasury] warned

[Nicholas] Biddle not to present the memorial at this time, but misled the directors by saying it would not become a law unless connected with the financial operations of the government; the President told Biddle that that was not a sufficient inducement; Poinsett thinks the whole question will be postponed; main battle on tariff yet to come; would be better to postpone it than to pass [Henry] Clay's proposition; it will be beneficial to gain time, as there are many tariff men, including [John Q.] Adams, who are willing to afford relief to the aggrieved South; Adams said that a mere proposition to repeal duties on articles not requiring protection was not enough; memorials entrusted to him [Poinsett] have been presented in both houses; Carolina must present an undivided front against abuses of tariff system; he told Clay that both parties in Carolina opposed his [Clay's] tariff system, but differed on question of its constitutionality and of the remedy of nullification; he has no faith that Clay will do anything for the South; he confirms division in Cabinet which he mentioned to [John L.] Pringle; [Edward] Livingston [Secretary of State] wavers between the two parties; House occupied with apportionment bill and the Senate with [Martin] Van Buren and the tariff, "both knotty points"; House will probably settle on 48,000, but there will be a debate, because New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Maryland will lose only one member each.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 18.5 cm.

133. 1832, Feb. 4. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

[Henry] Clay and [John Q.] Adams still favor protective tariff; "The former has been delivered of two thirds of a speech in which he advocates his ruinous and absurd American System"; Adams favors concessions to the South; the South is accused of being unwilling to conciliate; "This is too true of a majority of our members"; subject has been referred to Secretary of the Treasury [Louis McLane], who believes tariff will be modified; his [McLane's] zeal for the bank has cooled; bank question will be made a party question; tariff and American system will perish; [Martin] Van Buren's appointment as ambassador to Great Britain was not confirmed; his friends considered "his acceptance of that appointment as a present relinquishment of his claims upon their support and were busily preparing the way for themselves—I mean [Louis] McLane and Co.," his return defeats all such schemes; it is now proposed to send Judge [William] Wilkins to London and to nominate Van Buren for Vice President; "It is so planned by the friends of the latter. The President who does not understand the policy of foreign Courts believes

that G[reat] Britain will resent the indignity offered her by V[an] B[uren]'s rejection; and he will not appoint a successor lest he should not be received by that Court. That government does not care a button whether we reject Mr. Van Buren's appointment or confirm it. But we are disposed to think what is of great moment to us personally is important to all the world besides"; he [Poinsett] will soon publish a sketch of European affairs; the Cabinet is composed of heterogeneous elements and will hardly last longer than the beginning of next term; will return home within two weeks; asks him to send a note or draft for \$100 to C. C. Cambreleng for him; will interview "certain Senators" in a day or so and notify him of the results.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

134. 1832, Apr. 28. JAMES HAIG, Charleston, [S. C.]. To HENRY A. DE SAUSSURE, [Charleston, S. C.]

Is writing for [James L.] Petigru because of latter's "domestic affliction"; friends of [Henry] Clay are determined to persevere in their original intention of having a representation in the convention at Washington next month; he [Haig] has certified Henry C. Flagg's appointment as delegate; certain gentlemen of the Union party, including Petigru, were delegated to dissuade him [Haig] from publication of a resolution adopted by Mr. Clay's friends, since it would injure the Union party without helping to bring about Mr. Clay's election; no party could be organized in Charleston or South Carolina in his favor; if friends of Mr. Clay persisted the Union party would disavow any connection with them; he [Haig] has been an active but unimportant member of the Union party, but has favored Mr. Clay for the presidency; he withdraws the assent he too hastily gave to Mr. Petigru's views.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 33 cm. x 21 cm.

135. 1832, May 10. HENRY GOLDSMITH, Charleston, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.]

Thanks him for assistance and favors; explains circumstances of his life; will make no suggestion, in spite of Poinsett's request, concerning the pursuit he is competent for; wants to know if he shall continue his writings; Dr. [J. W.] Schmidt said their object was to keep up excitement until after the election; Schmidt advised him to correspond with county journals; will send articles to those which Poinsett recommends.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

136. 1832, May 19. H[ENRY] GOLDSMITH, Charleston, S. C. To J. R. POINSETT, Baltimore, Md.

Is still writing for the party in accordance with understanding between Poinsett and Dr. [J. W.] Schmidt; "Dr. Schmidt has liquidated what was understood between yourself and him, and has paid me . . . \$50"; asks if he shall continue writing; Dr. Schmidt feels he is not authorized to give Goldsmith instructions.

A. L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

137. 1832, Aug. 29. C[HAPMAN] LEVY, Camden, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT [*sic*], Charleston, S. C.

Needs \$2,000 to continue his political work and writing in Kershaw County, where the struggle is desperate; Union friends in the county do not contribute much; wants to distribute 10,000 to 14,000 extra papers every week to the "common people."

A. L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

138. 1832, Sept. 3. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.]. To JOHN CHESNUT, [member of Camden Union Committee, Camden, S. C.]

Cannot attend dinner given at Camden to their representative, General [James] Blair; Poinsett approves of Blair's political sentiments and principles in relation to tariff and union; appreciates his [Blair's] spirit of conciliation in accepting compromise offered to the South; "I applaud every act wh. tends to reconcile conflicting interests or contending parties and to allay that spirit of disaffection which threatens to destroy the finest temple of Liberty ever erected by the hands of man in any age or in any country."

Cy. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 22 cm.

139. 1832, Sept. 22. WM. JOHNSON, [Charleston, S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.]

Outlines the law on the right to vote for commissioner of the poor of Charleston Neck; by act of 1712 the poor were under charge of church wardens and overseers elected by vestries; in 1791 a law was passed providing for election of five poor commissioners by "all Persons who have a Right to vote for Members of the Legislature"; Charleston Neck is that part of St. Philip's Parish not within limits of the city; the commissioners for Charleston Neck are elected by voters in St. Philip's residing beyond city limits; "I do think the

whole Election District has a right to vote & I question whether we have not the Right to assess the whole."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 22 cm. x 12 cm.

140. 1832, Oct. 5. J. R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.].
To MAJOR BLACK, [Charleston, S. C.]

Forty laborers have been brought in from the railroad to vote with the nullifiers; Black is to ascertain their names so they can be stopped at the polls.

A. L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

Black's answer on reverse of this letter. *See* next entry.

141. [1832], Oct. 5. [MAJOR] BLACK, [Charleston, S. C.].
To [J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.]

Sends list of persons entitled to vote: Wm. Vagrass, Wm. Flaney, Peter Walsh, Davis, Wallice, McCarty, Liles, Smith, Griffin; Mr. Crawford, the bearer, was foreman of the "gang of Carpenters," and is "warmly with us"; knows of no laborers.

A. L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

142. 1832, Oct. 10. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.].
To [FRANCES] TYRRELL, [England]

Acknowledges letter informing him of her father's death; he is pleased with Edward's success; has been busy counteracting the efforts of those who favor revolution and change in South Carolina; will send her a copy of a speech he made to the people; "Here as in England we are compelled to harangue the people"; was too busy to visit England the previous summer; explains his fondness for England; "Here [in United States] the nobility is that of nature, every man may place himself in the first rank if he possesses talents and energy. It gratifies our self respect to be among the first in the land to be looked up to as a leader of many and to take part in the affairs of the nation . . . we are not so bad quite however as Mrs. Trollop's book of abomination would represent us to be. . . . You ought to be proud of us, proud of such descendants as all who think rightly here are proud and grateful for having descended from so great and glorious a nation. We owe you not only our political existence, but our liberties, our National Character and our literature. . . . I wish you could come and see Man develloping all his energies in this vast and fertile Country—contending and overcoming every obstacle opposed to his progress by nature and rapidly extending his domain

from the Atlantic to the Pacific"; contrasts America and England; would like now to live tranquilly in England; asks for news of her family.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 7 pp. 32 cm. x 19.5 cm.

143. 1832, Oct. 17

Newspaper clippings from [Charles]ton *Courier*: proceedings of late convention at Asheville, [N. C.], on subject of opening up a communication between navigable waters of Tennessee and Charleston, as reported in Knoxville *Register*; sent to Charleston *Courier* for publication by J. G. M. Ramsay; absence of South Carolina delegates from convention does not indicate indifference of South Carolina to proposed railroad.

1 p. 15 cm. x 7 cm.

144. 1832, Dec. 1. JOS. K. STAPLETON, NATHAN B. HASWELL, and JAMES M. ALLEN, Baltimore, [Md.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

Poinsett has been unanimously elected to the office of Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Masonry of the United States, for a period of three years.

L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

145. 1832, Dec. 17. DAVID S. HARLLEE, merchant, Cheraw, S. C. To J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

The nullifiers drew up a remonstrance that no merchant should be appointed postmaster of Cheraw; they petitioned to have one of their party, not a merchant, appointed; General [James] Blair has promised to use his influence for Mr. Bryan, a Union party man, and a merchant; Harllee requests Poinsett to use his influence in this matter.

A. L. S. 1 p. 33 cm. x 19.5 cm.

146. 1832, Dec. 17. GEORGE C. HOOPER, Wilmington, N. C. To EDWARD McCRADY, Charleston, S. C.

Writes at Mr. Rowe's request, in reference to resistance to be made by Union party to nullifiers; such resistance must be in accord with law and the Constitution; public sentiment generally good, but "disorganizers" make trouble for Union party, and "where a year or two ago L. D. Henry denouncing N[ullificatio]n as treason

threw down the gauntlet unanswered twenty-four traitors have started up"; all information on matter to be sent to General E. B. Dudley, who Rowe believes will be a valuable ally when converted, and who will obtain volunteers; people are indisposed to take up arms; they hope the President's proclamation will drive back the nullifiers, or that the President will provide a sufficient force; the people will do nothing until the President calls the militia; he [Hooper] does not trust Dudley, though the latter protests he is a Unionist; there will be no peace until tariff is reduced; he [Hooper] is undecided about giving up the profession of teaching; asks for information about the situation of the Union party in South Carolina; is afraid people in the South would dislike the use of Northern troops to subjugate Southerners; recent Union meeting in this congressional district was well attended and unanimous; great applause for President's proclamation; sends regards to his "cousin Posey," Mr. and Mrs. [Henry?] Trescot and Miss Jane.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

147. [1832?] THOS. S. GRIMKE, South Bay, [Charleston, S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.]

Has written a report of meeting of subcommittee of the central committee of the Union party, which he [Grimke] joined in Mr. [James L.] Petigru's absence; will send report to Poinsett; asks him for such of his collection of autographs, American or European, as he can part with; wants to discuss with him connection between their old French families, based on an item of the Faucheraud family in his Huguenot Bible: "Mon cousin Joel Poinsett est mort le 11 Desembre 1744 a 3 heure du matin age 70 annee."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20 cm. x 12.5 cm.

148. [1832?] A member of Poinsett's committee, [Charleston, S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.]

Nullifiers do not employ anyone differing from them politically; they are forming a Society of Mechanics to accomplish that purpose, and will prosecute all Union men who employ free Negro mechanics; penalty for such employment is \$100 by an act of the last legislature; General [Robert Y.] Hayne will head nullifiers' ticket; *modus operandi* of nullifiers was partially exemplified in [Isaac E.?] Holmes' case; he urges the running of a candidate in parishes "around us" [Charleston Neck]; nullifiers expect to add 40 votes to their already known majority in the city by giving legal protection to nonpaying purchasers of property [in Charleston Neck] and by having outsiders establish residence on the Neck; Union managers

should request a meeting of board of managers to settle question of property and residence qualifications for voting.

Letter, unsigned. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

149. [1832?] JOS. H. GOLDSMITH, [Charleston, S. C.].
To DR. J. W. SCHMIDT, [Charleston, S. C.]

Has left office to have dinner at home; Mr. Poinsett wishes to see Dr. Schmidt.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20 cm. x 12.5 cm.

150. 1833, Jan. 3. THOS. BENNETT, [Charleston, S. C.?].
To J. R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.?]

Encloses bill of Mr. Burges [for printing for Union party]; he [Bennett] knows of no funds allotted for such purposes; discusses ways and means of meeting this obligation.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20 cm. x 12.5 cm.

For enclosure *see* next entry.

151. [1833, Jan.]. JAMES BURGESS. To Central Committee, U. & S. R. Party, [Charleston, S. C.?]

Bill for \$107 for printing circulars, addresses, and proclamations during period from November 5 to December 12, 1832.

A. D. S. 1 p. 20.5 cm. x 8.5 cm.

Enclosed with preceding entry.

152. 1833, Jan. 8. W. S. BLAIN, [Charleston, S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.]

Wishes to borrow \$100 from Poinsett; pledges himself to repay it within one month; "Huger's letter" will be ready for delivery this afternoon.

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.5 cm. x 12 cm.

153. 1833, Feb. 5. SIMPSON BOBO, Spartanburgh, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

Organization of Unionists has been slow in his district because of its size; at a meeting held in January they decided to form a Union Society, for which 1,500 members, most of them able to bear arms, have been obtained; hopes to have 2,000 or 2,500 members by

March; people are prepared to defend their rights; explains administrative workings of the society; they need arms and ammunition; opponents' efforts to gain volunteers have been unsuccessful; they have only 150 or 200; they expect to win without bloodshed; they [the Unionists] feel no fear for their district, but are apprehensive about the fate of their friends in Charleston, whom they want to aid; he [Bobo] believes things are going well in all parts of the state except Georgetown; Thos. Coole and Joseph Michel have been added to Committee of Correspondence in this district; will soon publish some strong resolutions.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 23.5 cm. x 20 cm.

154. 1833, Feb. 18. J. ROSEBOROUGH, G. W. COLEMAN, J. W. MORSE, Committee of Correspondence, Chester C[ourt] H[ouse, S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

Committee of Vigilance in Chester district has enrolled 724 men who are prepared to defend themselves; the five committee members not yet heard from will have 300 to 400 additional men; only one-third of men are adequately armed; the opponents have obtained about 417 volunteers besides a cavalry company; they are slightly better armed than the Unionists; those who have not volunteered so far will remain neutral, but if and when secession is attempted, they will be divided among themselves.

L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

155. 1833, Feb. 25. HENRY GOLDSMITH, Charleston, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.]

Writes at Dr. [J. W.] Schmidt's instance to ask for employment by the [Union] party for which he has toiled unremittingly; appreciates past favors.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

156. 1833, Mar. 23. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.]. To [ANDREW JACKSON], President, [Washington, D. C.]

A navy yard should be established at Charleston in the interest of the navy and the defense of the southern sea coast and trade to the West Indies; Commodore [Jesse D.] Elliott is in agreement with this view, and will supply other and more cogent reasons for the proposed establishment; South Carolina is discontented because none of the revenues collected in the state by the government are

spent there; the government order that no vessel of war touch at Charleston alienated the mechanics of Charleston, who caused trouble in the recent difficulties [over nullification]; their unemployment made them an easy prey to disorganizers who taught that nullification was a remedy for all ills; the navy yard would furnish employment, and would enable the government to extend protection to Southerners from slave population; the state troops would be disbanded, and the Union party would be in the ascendancy in Charleston; the presence of war vessel *Natchez* in Charleston harbor has had beneficial effects; believes Unionism will ultimately prevail; the navy yard would hasten its acceptance.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 4 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

157. 1833, [Mar.?]. W[ILLIA]M DRAYTON, [Charleston, S. C.?]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.?]

Has read his [Poinsett's] letter to the President; it contains information which the latter wants; it might be expedient to have two sloops of war in the harbor, should simultaneous attacks be made on Castle Pinckney and Fort Moultrie; accepts Poinsett's invitation for dinner; Mr. [William?] Heyward left town last Friday.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

158. 1833, Mar. 25. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.]. To [FRANCES] TYRRELL, [England]

Prefers life of pleasant excitement and labor to one of ease and idleness; secret of happiness lies in having a constant and agreeable occupation; he is tired of the excitement of political life; "Mind and matter are like water, if they stop they stagnate. . . . I will go on agitating both as long as possible"; booksellers and engravers plan to publish a gallery of portraits with biographical sketches, in which he will be included; he will send her a copy; nullifiers have been defeated; he had feared a short civil war, and was prepared to take the field again; he was indignant with the radicals; he headed the Union party, an organization for preserving the institutions of the country; sends condolences on her brother's death; he has inquired in Philadelphia about books for her brother John; there are no extensive law libraries in Charleston; regrets that he did not marry when young; Mr. T——y, who was with Lord Byron in Italy and Greece, was lately in Charleston; he is said to have written the story of his life, *The Adventures of a Younger Son*; asks her to continue correspondence; Mrs. [Hannah G.] Lovell is well; he has obtained a

midshipman's warrant for one of her sons, who is going to the coast of Brazil; he [Poinsett] lived with them near Charleston, but when danger thickened he moved into town; will come to England if things are quiet for a year; sends regards to her family.

A. Df. S. 6 pp. 32 cm. x 19.5 cm.

159. 1833, Mar. 25. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.].
To TIMOTHY TYRRELL, Guildhall, [Eng.]

Acknowledges Tyrrell's letter of November 26 concerning Mrs. Robinson's pension; his [Poinsett's] grandfather neglected to provide for her in his will, but directed that Tyrrell's father use the dividends of certain stocks to pay the pension; wants Tyrrell to receive dividends and pay pension as his father did.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 32 cm. x 19.5 cm.

160. 1833, Aug. 8. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.].
To [FRANCES] TYRRELL, [England]

Acknowledges her letter of June 4, which arrived yesterday; women have more heart and more tact than men, and so write better letters; he has sent Timothy [Tyrrell] some pamphlets he wrote last winter; he was appointed generalissimo to lead defense against sedition and misrule; "We are at peace now and I am hated and loved to my heart's content"; he fears that "with your monarchical and high church notions it would be difficult to make you comprehend our extraordinary republican polity"; will send her *The Federalist* if she will read it; "Three of our ablest men" wrote it; "We are a most metaphysical people as well as somewhat turbulent and always ready to quarrel and fight about a mere subtlety"; every state governs itself in its internal affairs; the Federal government takes care of exterior relations of each state; Mrs. Dolland sometimes informs him about the Tyrrells; sorry Mrs. Tyrrell is suffering from "that vile influenza"; the sketch of him for the national portrait gallery has been delayed; he has recently served on the board of visitors to examine the cadets at West Point; sends her a copy of his report; West Point is "an admirable institution"; he accompanied the President [Jackson] from West Point to Boston, where he participated in the festivities for the President; he was criticized in the Boston papers for his speeches; he loves the free institutions in United States and will always be ready to defend them *envers et contre tous*; sends regards to her family.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 7 pp. 32 cm. x 19.5 cm.

161. 1833, Sept. 20. W[ILLIAM] ELLIOTT, Beaufort, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.]

Acknowledges his letter concerning the position of postmaster at Hickory Hill; he [Elliott] knows of no "proper incumbent"; "even on *such* locations in this district the growth of Union plants is very rare"; William Mason Smith is in a better position to name some one; deplores condition of Union party in his district; "The fate of our Party here was sealed at Columbia in December 1831 by the refusal of the Caucus to establish a Conservative Club whose influence might counteract the States Rights' Association"; the Jacobin Club had great influence over the country parishes; "You who have witnessed the influence of priestcraft in Spain have never even there witnessed an influence more despotic or all pervading"; a counter-acting club offering protection from organized persecution of nullifiers would have strengthened the [Union] Party; as representative in Congress, [William J.] Grayson is less talented than [Robert W.] Barnwell, but superior in intrigue; whole present representation is feebler than the last, which is "all the better for John C. Calhoun who can the readier . . . control the vote of the State"; sends regards to [James L.] Petigru and the Hugers.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

162. [1833?], Sept. 19. TH. B. MITCHELL, Geo[rge]town, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

Congratulates him for having inspired the Union men of Charleston with confidence; the pieces in the *Courier* are written in a fine tone; success [of the Union party] in the approaching election of Charleston would have a beneficial effect on the whole state; has raised an opposition ticket in All Saints [parish] to keep interlopers from the Georgetown poll; nullifiers have aroused the interest of the planters for first time; they are lavish with money in elections; Union party must keep together; asks for information regarding the Citadel guard in Charleston; people do not know of its existence; it is "wanton and unnecessary" expense.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

163. 1834, Jan. 12. R. D. C. COLLINS, Captain U. S. Army, Little Rock, [Ark.]. To MAJOR [LEWIS G.] DE RUSSY, U. S. Army

Acknowledges letter; the \$150,000 in specie due him [Collins] from the Indian Department may be sent by bearer, Capt. B. Williams, of Little Rock; will send receipt.

Cy. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

164. 1834, Oct. 5. JOHN FORSYTH, Secretary of State, Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.?

The postmaster of Ch[arle]ston [S. C.] is trying to secure the reversion of the office for his son, but Mr. Mathews prevented success of the attempt; as the incumbent will probably resign, their friends in Charleston should present a candidate to the Post Office Department; no successor to Judge [William] Johnson of the Supreme Court will be named for some time; recommendation of [James L.] Petigru will be fairly considered; the death of Judge [William Harris] Crawford removed competitor, but there are many other formidable rivals.

A. L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

165. 1835, Mar. 16. JAS. PICKERING, Boston, [Mass.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.]

His brother-in-law, Benjamin R. Nichols, the bearer of this letter, is traveling south for his health; requests Poinsett to give him [Nichols] some friendly assistance; also sends two of his pamphlets with Nichols for Poinsett in return for those which Poinsett has sent him; he does not entirely agree with him.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 22.5 cm. x 18.5 cm.

166. 1835, May 9. L[ORENZO] DE ZAVALA, N[ew] York, [N. Y.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

He arrived [in United States] on May 4 and will probably remain here instead of returning to Mexico, but will refrain from political activity; he is thinking of going to Texas to live, to provide for his family; he believes [Antonio] Santa Anna will fall, for Mexico will soon weary of being disgraced; if Poinsett has read his [Zavala's] communication to the United States he will know what is involved; reminds Poinsett of their talks in Tacubaya [Mexico]; if the Mexican republic unites with the north, which has an energetic population and would receive help from the United States, it cannot be destroyed; he [Zavala] has never had more public support both inside and outside Mexico than he now has, because he has corrected his faults and perfected his ideas of freedom; Mr. [David B.] Warden [of Paris, France] gave him some seeds for Poinsett which he will send him by this boat; he has also a cask of wine for him.

A. L. S. In Spanish. 2 pp. 26.5 cm. x 21.5 cm.

167. 1835, Aug. 15. JOHN VAUGHAN, Librarian of American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Acknowledges his letter of July 28; the Lewis and Clark manuscripts were deposited in the American Philosophical Society in 1816-17 by General Clark, through [Thos.] Jefferson and Nicholas Biddle; government of United States has no claim on these manuscripts, always regarded as private property of Lewis and Clark; manuscripts are open for use by men of science and of history; [Jared] Sparks and [Albert] Gallatin have used them; the society has decided that the manuscripts cannot be sent to Europe for the use of Mr. [John James] Audubon; he may use them freely upon his return.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

168. 1835, Sept. 21. TIM TYRRELL, Guildhall, [Eng.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.]

Can obtain no account from Messrs. Morland, since they are bankrupt; his mother has died; has sent the pictures he [Poinsett] requested; the "best and chief source" of England's happiness is the Established Church; papists, who have been admitted to Parliament again, are attacking the Church; "England has cause to remember that the Roman Catholic religion is a political one," and now sees its rashness in regard to Catholics; a demagogue rules the destiny of Ireland; popery would have flourished again in England if not for the House of Lords, "that beautiful safeguard ag[ains]t popular excitement[en]t."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 23 cm. x 20 cm.

169. 1835, Dec. 1. R[OBERT] BUIST, of Hibbert and Buist, florists, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

Asks advice on procedure to obtain plant collections from Mexico; after consultation with Professor [Sir William J.] Hooker, Regius Professor at Glasgow, in 1831, and his own observations in 1831-32, he gave the *Euphorbia Poinsettia* its name, as it was introduced from Mexico into America by Poinsett in 1826; the plant is producing great excitement in Scotland and England; last winter he was very successful with the flowering of his poinsettias.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

170. 1836. DR. A. PLANTOU, Philadelphia, [Pa.]

"Improvement on Steam Navigation," in which Plantou submits testimonials of "scientific and practical men" who have examined his improvements on steam navigation; testimonials given by Th. P. Jones, G. Dutton, Moses Sullivan, J. D. Paxton, Joseph Smith, W. R. Johnson, John Birety, Wm. Hamilton, Wilmon Whilldin, Mel. T. Woolsey.

Pamphlet, 4 pp. 24.5 cm. x 15 cm.

171. 1836, May 11. House of Representatives, [Washington, D. C.]

Joint Resolution H. R. 13, for applying steam power to the navigation of canals, pursuant to a plan invented by Dr. Plantou, reported by Committee on Roads and Canals in 1st session of Twenty-fourth Congress; \$4,000 appropriated.

Printed document, 1 p. 22 cm. x 10.5 cm.

**172. 1836, Aug. 6. DR. A. PLANTOU, Philadelphia, [Pa.].
To JOEL R. POINCET [*sic*]**

Places his newly invented improvement for railroads, which General [Charles] Gratiot declared worthy of an appropriation, under Poinsett's protection; too late for Congress to act upon it; all the engineers in Baltimore, especially Mr. Trimble, approve it; "I entreat you to speak of it to your Engineers and Members of your immense projected Rail Road"; is sending description of his plan for improved steam navigation, which South Carolina needs so much; Congress has appropriated \$4,000 for this plan, but it is uncertain until it has been made a law; therefore wants to form a company "by giving part of my interest for state"; engineers in Philadelphia approve his railroad plan.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

**173. 1836, Dec. 27. M[ITCHELL] KING, Charleston, S. C.
To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.**

He is greatly obligated to Dr. James Davis of Columbia [S. C.] for taking care of his family during the past summer; he [Dr. Davis] has retired from practice and professional compensation is impossible; the doctor's son William, aged twenty, is intelligent and talented, but has kept bad company; "The Doctor is a very austere Father—of the old school—the Son is high spirited. The Father . . .

is wholly unfit to manage him"; he [King] and Cole Preston want Poinsett to secure a position as clerk or cadet for William in the expedition to the "Southern Ocean" which Mr. Reynolds is directing; Preston is William's brother-in-law; a letter from Poinsett to the Secretary of the Navy would get William the job.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 23 cm. x 19 cm.

174. 1836, Dec. 30. WM. H. WHARTON, Washington, [D. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Congratulates him for his exposition of the sufferings of the people of Texas, and of their claims in the justice and sympathy of the United States; disagrees with Poinsett's belief that the Texans will again be driven from their homes; encloses a synopsis of report of Morfit on conditions in Texas and Mexico; Morfit and Weaver, who have just returned, were sent there as confidential agents.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

Enclosure missing.

175. [1836] DR. [A.] PLANTOU

Diagram of Plantou's improved wheel for railroad cars, annotated by Dr. Plantou.

1 p. 34 cm. x 20.5 cm.

176. 1837, Jan. 20. Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, [Washington, D. C.]

Report of [Felix] Grundy, chairman of the committee, that the claims of William B. Stokes, Richard C. Stockton, Lucius W. Stockton, and Daniel Moore against the Postmaster General for compensation for transportation of mail should be paid in full.

On page 3 is penciled a notation in Poinsett's hand: "Passed Unanimously 18th Feby. 1837 after another Report (herewith sent) on 17th Feby. stating the Com. had exd. A. Kendall's objections . . . & saw nothing to alter their previous Report."

Printed leaflet. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 14.5 cm.

177. 1837, Jan. 20. Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, [Washington, D. C.]

Another copy of the report on claims of Stokes, Stockton, and Moore. See preceding entry.

On page 3 is a notation in pencil in Poinsett's hand: "Passed unanimously Feby. 18th 1837."

Printed leaflet. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 14.5 cm.

178. 1837, Feb. 4. M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Washington, [D. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Geo[rge]town, S. C.

He is about to "enter upon the Administration of the Govt."; Mr. [Benjamin] Butler is temporarily acting as Secretary of War; he [Butler] will continue as Attorney General; he [Van Buren] asks Poinsett to head the Department of War; no change is anticipated in Departments of State and Treasury.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosed with next entry.

179. 1837, Feb. 11. ALFRED HUGER, Charleston, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Encloses letter [from Van Buren]; believes it is important; he and [John J.?] Pringle are curious about contents of letter; he [Huger] hopes Poinsett will have a seat in the Cabinet.

A. L. S. 1 p. 33 cm. x 20.5 cm.

For enclosure *see* preceding entry.

180. 1837, Feb. 17. [Washington, D. C.]

Memorandum on the report of [Felix] Grundy, chairman of the judiciary committee of the United States Senate, on the claims of [William B.] Stokes, *et al.*, against the Postmaster General; ". . . The Committee . . . cannot discover any cause for changing their opinion upon any of the principles advanced in their former report; nor the correctness of their application to this case."

Note in Poinsett's hand on reverse of document; "Postmaster General refuses to pay, and Stokes, *et al.*, are advised to resort to a *mandamus* to compel payment."

2 pp. 32.5 cm. x 20 cm.

181. 1837, Apr. 8. H. M. RUTLEDGE, Nashville, Tenn. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Sends this letter by a friend, [Alfred] Balch; congratulates him [Poinsett] on being named Secretary of War; it is a happy omen for South Carolina, "whose eminent Citizens have for some years past been shuffled out of the publick ranks. . . . She will . . . by de-

grees resume her former station, and the influence in the Councils of the nation, to which she has many, and indubitable claims"; their old friend "the General" has returned in broken health, but is improving; he is sorry to hear that Mrs. Poinsett is not well; he is pleased to know that Poinsett is in good health, as "you will have to bring order out of confusion, and repair, if possible, the numerous blunders of your predecessor [Lewis Cass]"; officers were dissatisfied with Cass; his [Rutledge's] youngest son Arthur will soon be graduated at West Point; requests that he be assigned to the Engineer Corps; R[alph?] S. Izard is improved by his foreign travel; he [Izard] traveled in Egypt and Syria, and saw Mahomet Ali.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

182. 1837, Apr. 20. THO[MAS] BENNETT, Charleston, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter of April 7; will reply to official part of it later on; "The fact is plainly this—I have quite a desire to attend *that examination*; blunted . . . by a certain conscious inability which brings into very active conflict with the sterner virtue of probity—the *potent*, and too often successful antagonists Variety and self Love. Still as something may possibly be rendered the public equivalent to the honor it confers, I shall accept"; invites Mr. and Mrs. Poinsett to stay with him when they visit Charleston; if he visits West Point soon, will stop in Washington to see Poinsett.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.5 cm. x 25 cm.

183. 1837, Apr. 22. A[NDREW] STEVENSON, [Minister to England], London, [Eng.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Congratulates him on his appointment as Secretary of War; hopes it will benefit both the country and himself; the new administration will face serious problems, but he is confident that the talents and discretions of the President [Van Buren] and other "skilful Pilots" will be equal to them; Major William B. Lewis, in the Dept. of War, is one of his [Stevenson's] most valued friends; he was one of the early friends of General Jackson; Stevenson associated closely with him for 12 or 14 years, especially during the war of nullification; he is most efficient, and will be invaluable to Poinsett as an officer, and trustworthy; he [Stevenson] believes there will be no change of Ministry in England until the Municipal Corporations Bill is disposed of; an alarming crisis in the money market is anticipated on both sides of the Atlantic; produce is low and money scarce.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20 cm. x 25 cm.

184. 1837, May 1. CHAS. H. POND, Milford, Conn. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He was an old school friend of Poinsett's at Greenfield Hill; Poinsett has proved himself a true American in every stage of his life from school to the Cabinet "of the most honest and intelligent Government on earth"; he was a friend of the American Union in his opposition to nullification; he has always been the upholder of American principle of freedom; his appointment as Secretary of War is a fitting reward for his past successes, and a further opportunity for service; Pond's own career presents a great contrast to that of Poinsett; he was sheriff for some years, but retired in 1834 because of Whig victory in legislature; the college [New Haven] and banks withhold jobs from a Democrat; for the past year he has been an associate judge of the county court, "which just about furnishes salt for the porridge."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20 cm. x 25 cm.

185. 1837, May 3. JOHN H. JACOBS, New Haven, [Conn.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter; over-banking and over-trading are chief causes of present crisis; about twenty business men, principally carriage makers, have failed in his community; merchants connected with the South will probably fail; confidence was restored to the monied concerns of the country by the appointment of [Langdon] Cheves [in 1819] to succeed William Jones as president of the United States Bank; he [Jacobs] believes that appointment of Poinsett as Secretary of the Treasury [in place of Levi Woodbury of New Hampshire] would have same effect; "The country wants . . . a man of known integrity and capacity. This change will satisfy those who either wish for a call of Congress, the repeal of the specie circular, or the suspension of the collection of Custom House bonds. The people want in that Department a man of Southern honesty, like old Hickory's and not of downeast slipperinness, like a Yankee Pedlar's."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

186. 1837, May 24. THOMAS COOPER, Columbia, S. C. To [J. R. POINSETT]

He will subscribe for the publication intended to support Van Buren's administration, the prospectus of which Poinsett sent him; he respects Van Buren, and desires to give full confidence to his motives for action; but he believes in states' rights and nullification; he believes General Jackson's experiments with the financial system of the country were imprudent, and that the tendency of the Treasury

circular was to prostrate national character and credit; if Van Buren follows Jackson's policies, he [Cooper] cannot defend him.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

187. 1837, May 31. Jos. JOHNSON, Charleston, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

He was disappointed that Poinsett did not come to Charleston by the last Norfolk boat, and to hear further from J[ohn] L. Pringle that he cannot come until after the session of Congress; urges him to safeguard his health by taking daily exercises; is forwarding some letters from Europe; asks for biographical data on members of Poinsett family for use by the South Carolina Society; financial situation in Charleston still bad, but better than it was.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

188. [1837], June 5. J. R. POINSETT [Washington, D. C.]. To [LEVI WOODBURY, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.]

Judge [William] Smith of Alabama has written [on May 20, 1837]⁵ asking when the Bank of North America in Philadelphia [Pa.] was established, and when slavery was abolished in Pennsylvania; Poinsett asks for information on these questions.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

189. 1837, June 13. JAS. JOHNSON, Charleston, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Thanks him for appointment as agent and inspector of public works in Charleston harbor; his brother Joseph has informed him that Poinsett has offered to appoint him military store keeper either at St. Lewis [Mo.?] or Little Rock [Ark.]; such an appointment would enable him to pay the debt he owes his brother, but he feels he ought to accept the original appointment; when that is terminated, he will welcome whatever appointment Poinsett can give him.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

190. 1837, July 19. GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Gen. [Winfield] Scott and Gen. [Abraham] Eustis have communicated with him in reference to proposed changes in the ord-

⁵ This letter is in the Poinsett Papers, VIII, 91 in *The Historical Society of Pennsylvania*.

nance department and a plan for the increase of the Army; discusses the contemplated changes and submits suggestions for consideration.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

191. 1837, July 19. WILLIAM H. KEATING, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Has just recovered from an operation for a fistula; will send requested school reports by mail; he has some of Poinsett's books; some of Poinsett's sentiments lately published in the Philadelphia papers have aroused great admiration; his appointment [as Secretary of War] has aroused hope in the political opponents of the last [Jackson's] administration; commerce and industry are at a standstill in Philadelphia; some of the wealthiest inhabitants are on the verge of bankruptcy; all are anxiously awaiting meeting of Congress in September, hoping for a measure of relief; he would like to see Poinsett's name connected with some system of administration which would "conciliate the respect" of all parties.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

192. 1837, July 23. RANDELL HUNT, New Orleans, [La.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Judge Harper of the United States District Court of Louisiana died July 18; it is supposed that Mr. P. K. Lawrence, now district attorney in New Orleans, will be appointed his successor; he requests Poinsett to recommend his brother, Theodore Gaillard Hunt, to the President for appointment as district attorney in Lawrence's place; his brother was recommended for similar office in Charleston by the merchants, during period of nullification difficulties; Mr. Ed. Frost, by concealing the fact that he was a nullifier, secured that appointment; Poinsett is reputed to have great influence with the President; he [Hunt] and his brothers have to support their mother and her twelve children; he observes, from Poinsett's remarks in Charleston on July 4, that the Government will present a plan to Congress for relief of country's distress; Charleston merchants expect much from Poinsett's influence; the great object to be obtained is future security, a wise regulation of the currency, and a safe deposit for the public money; he [Hunt] thinks a national bank necessary to achieve this; "the republic is safe as long as our union is preserved"; thanks to Poinsett, [John C.] Calhoun's efforts for separation of states on tariff question failed; now Calhoun is trying to achieve it on the slavery question.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 28 cm. x 22 cm.

193. 1837, July 23. THOMAS HUNT, New Orleans, [La.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

He was fortunate in winning Poinsett's friendship during the difficult time in South Carolina when [John C.] Calhoun was attempting to achieve nullification; asks him to interest himself in the appointment of his brother, Theodore Gaillard Hunt, as district attorney in New Orleans; he [Theodore] is "a sound lawyer, and elegant scholar, an accomplished orator, and a gentleman of stern and inflexible integrity"; he [Theodore] agrees with Poinsett about the necessity of regulating the currency, and of securing the country against speculators, stockjobbers, and "fraudulent bank-makers"; he favors specie basis for circulation and paper money redeemable in coin; he is a Unionist, which is important now, when nullification is still a living issue.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

194. 1837, July 27. THEODORE GAILLARD HUNT, New Orleans, [La.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Asks Poinsett to obtain the office of district attorney in New Orleans for him; he is making no other application for the office except this one; it is important to have the recommendation of someone in Washington; although his application for same office in Charleston was supported by the merchants and by [William] Drayton, Congressman from Charleston, he lost the appointment to Mr. [Ed.] Frost; his motive in seeking office now is to serve his family rather than to "aggrandise" himself; congratulates Poinsett on his elevation to the Cabinet.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

195. 1837, July 28. ANAST[ASIO] BUSTAMANTE, President of Mexico, [Mexico City]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He has received Poinsett's letter respecting the differences between their two countries from Robert Greenhow, Commissioner of the United States; thanks Poinsett for congratulations when he was elected President of Mexico, and congratulates Poinsett on being made Secretary of War; he appreciates the friendliness of so eminent a member of the Cabinet towards Mexico; the frankness and sincerity of Poinsett's letter are in sharp contrast to the official letter from Secretary of State [John] Forsyth, in which are listed United States claims against Mexico; these demands have created an unfavorable impression on the Mexican cabinet, though they believe that the United States wants to reestablish and maintain good relations; the

Mexican government can assume no responsibility for acts of citizens of the United States, which have been included in the list of claims; Mexico will respect those claims which are justified; he [Bustamente] wants no disturbance between the United States and Mexico during his administration; Mexico considers American recognition of Texan independence, which Poinsett condones, an infraction of mutual obligations; Gorostiza published his notes without authorization by the Mexican government or by Mexican ministers in Washington; there will be an official explanation of this act; Poinsett as a cabinet member will see the official reply of the Mexican government to Mr. Forsyth.

L. S. In Spanish. 4 pp. 33 cm. x 20.5 cm.

196. 1837, July 31. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]
To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

"I have been brooding over your letter for some days past. The plan did not contemplate an increase of the artillery beyond one regiment"; the United States requires more ordnance than other countries because of the number of her seacoast fortresses; an inspector of fortifications is needed; the two inspectors general are not qualified for that work; the only officers fit for that service are Colonel [Joseph?] Totten and Colonel [Sylvanus] Thayer, but the former is soon leaving the Army, and the latter is much wanted at West Point; General [Charles] Gratiot is not fit to be master general of ordnance; that office and inspector of fortifications could be united, and held by Colonel Totten should he remain in the service; United States needs the English type of an ordnance board; asks where he can get information on England's military institutions; "my Predecessors have left the War office a tolerable belle lettres library, but no military books"; will borrow from West Point if such a book is there; wants to legislate the ordnance corps and commissariat into usefulness; present system provides no check on disbursements of money which are made by officers; wants the extra session of Congress to increase size of Army, which will enable him to terminate the Florida war; in December he wants to submit a complete plan, and desires Kemble's aid in preparing and passing it.

Cy. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

197. 1837, Aug. 6. WM. SMITH, Huntsville, Ala. To
JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Acknowledges letters of June 7 and July 18; "The gentleman you enquire concerning is no doubt qualified for the office you mention; but although a lawyer, I should not suppose he would fill the

place to more advantage to the public interest than General [William?] Carroll. There is, however, an objection to him on the ground of his political principles, and political associates, himself and them being the most rancorous, uncompromising whigs"; Alabama elections due tomorrow; struggle against Whiggery has been arduous; outcome is doubtful; Whigs claim they will make a clean sweep.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 26.5 cm. x 21 cm.

198. 1837, Aug. 12. N. HERBEMONT, Columbia, S. C.
To JOEL R. POINSETT

Has delayed congratulating him on his appointment as Secretary of War because of ill health; both parties in South Carolina welcomed his appointment; the job will be no sinecure, but it will enable him to procure plants from foreign countries and introduce them into the United States; he [Herbemont] has been interested in this for thirty years, but his zeal exceeds his financial resources; wants Poinsett to try to obtain *Phormium tenax*, a New Zealand flax, which would be valuable to the navy for cordages and sails, because it is lighter and tougher than hemp; it is cultivated at Toulon, France; he will conduct an experiment in raising it; also wants the *Symphitum asperrimum* (prickly comfrey), an ornamental plant which provides forage for cattle; it is cultivated successfully in England, and is a native of the Caucasus; he [Herbemont] would accept a mission to Europe to obtain these plants; he would be pleased to see his old friend "Louis Philippe, Roi de français" whom he knew in Pittsburgh over forty years ago as "le citoyen Égalité."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

199. 1837, Aug. 14. ROBERT GREENHOW, Mobile, [Ala.].
To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Is on his way back from Mexico, where on July 29 President Bustamente gave him letters which he is forwarding, some to Poinsett and some to the Secretary of State [John Forsyth]; wants to see Mexico again; Mexico has changed greatly since the publication of Poinsett's notes; Poinsett's letters were a valuable introduction for him, especially with Bustamente; the latter has a Herculean task in Mexico, with few to aid him; Greenhow hopes he may not be overthrown by the United States; describes details of his trip; mentions Vera Cruz, Sacrificios, Jalapa, Tepeyagualco, Mexico City; he saw an American, Jewett, owner of a wax-bleaching establishment in Jalapa, Mr. Welsh, former British consul at Vera Cruz, Don Luis Gonrazaga Culvas, Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations, President Bustamente, and Colonel Yhany, the president's adjutant;

Culvas expressed regret that the official letters from the cabinet differed so much in tone from Poinsett's private communications to Bustamente [concerning American claims on Mexico]; the idea of Mexican soldiers conquering Texas is chimerical; Bustamente has refused the French demands; Baron Deffodis, the French minister, expects to be recalled; Admiral La Bretonnière will probably replace him.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

200. 1837, Aug. 19. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]. To JOHN VAUGHAN, Librarian of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, [Pa.]

He approves the decision of the society in regard to the Lewis and Clark manuscripts.

Cy. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

201. 1837, Nov. 29. W. THOMPSON, Recording Secretary, Columbia Horticultural Society, Washington, [D. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Encloses certificates of Poinsett's honorary membership in the society.

A. L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

Enclosure missing.

202. 1837, Dec. 5. C[AREY] A. HARRIS, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, War Department, [Washington, D. C.]. To MAJOR L[EWIS] G. DE RUSSY, paymaster, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

Official instructions to convey \$150,000 in specie to Little Rock, Ark., where he is to turn it over to Captain R. D. C. Collins, Principal Disbursing Agent of the Department of Indian Affairs, or in his absence, to Captain Jacob Brown; he may insure the money at Louisville, Ky., or at any other place on the route, if he deems it necessary; expenses to be listed under heading "Fulfilling Treaty with the Cherokees per act of 2nd July 1836."

Cy. 2 pp. 25.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

203. 1837, Dec. 13. CHARLES G. MEMMINGER, Columbia, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Hugh Legaré writes that he and Poinsett have agreed to recommend no action in legislature in favor of measures of the administration; he [Memminger] did not like the scheme proposed [at special session of Congress] in September, but "you and I had been maneu-

vering this State too much last session to give up the play"; he liked [John C.] Calhoun's amendment, but Legaré, by joining the opposition, created a delicate situation for himself and made Memminger's position in the legislature difficult; the house carried the committee's resolutions in spite of opposition of [William C.] Preston and [James L.] Petigru; if the resolutions had been tabled, it would have meant that South Carolina was opposed to Poinsett.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

204. 1837, Dec. 22. H. M. RUTLEDGE, Charleston, [S. C.].
To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Those who wish to see the army placed on a respectable footing have approved Poinsett's report, which, if carried, will revivify the army; admires his courage for suggesting so radical a change in the organization; Poinsett will be criticized for expenses of his department and high cost of his supplies; he [Poinsett] will not be concerned by what John Q. Adams and others like him might say on these matters; he [Rutledge] believes South Carolina will, like Tennessee, soften its opposition to [President] Van Buren; public works in Charleston would win the state completely to the side of the President; Van Buren ought to conciliate the South and the West so that they will support his measure of separating the government from the bank influences.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 27 cm. x 19.5 cm.

205. [1837?] LEWIS G. DE RUSSY

Statement of account for money he transported and delivered to Captain [R. D. C.] Collins at Little Rock, Arkansas, for use by Indian Department; \$9,604 lost in explosion of boat *Black Hawk* while descending the Mississippi; including that, the money paid out totals \$152,494.

Cy. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

206. [1837?] [CRITTENDEN?], Washington, D. C. [To J. R. POINSETT?]

Gives a résumé of his work as clerk in the Indian Office, War Department, since 1832, especially in connection with effecting the treaty with the Chickasaws; contrasts his work with that of other clerks; explains how the work of the Indian Office was organized; "If you think I am justly entitled to extra pay, I will then make out my claim"; attaches copy of an order of the War Department signed by L[ewis] C[ass, Secretary of War], dated July 16, 1834, concerning the appointment of Crittenden as clerk.

Df. [of a letter?]. 3 pp. 23 cm. x 15 cm.

207. 1838, Jan. 3. LEWIS G. DE RUSSY, Major, U. S. Army, Natchitoches, La. To C[AREY] A. HARRIS, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, [War Department, Washington, D. C.]

Between \$8,000 and \$15,000 of United States funds have been lost because of a boiler explosion on the steamboat *Black Hawk en route* from Natchez, Miss., to Natchitoches, La.; funds were not insured because of the high rates in Louisville, [Ky.]; will send further information about the incident as soon as it reaches him.

Cy. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

208. 1838, Jan. 13. EDWARD N. FULLER and A. A. PORTER, Princeton, N. J. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

They inform him that he has been elected an honorary member of the American Whig Society of the College of New Jersey [Princeton], a literary society established to promote literature, friendship, and morality in the college; no Whig ever becomes a member of the rival organization, the Cliosophic Society.

Endorsed by Poinsett, "To be taken to the President."

L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

209. 1838, Jan. 16. THOS. H. LUCKETT, Alexandria, La. To J. R. POINSETT

Explosion of the boilers of the *Black Hawk* was mainly due to lack of skill of the captain and crew; Major De Russey's presence of mind and exertions saved lives and property of passengers, as well as government property; this is a voluntary statement made by a passenger in behalf of a chivalrous and high-minded officer, Major De Russey.

Cy. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Attached are sworn statements of J. J. Sanford and W. Nichols, fellow passengers. See next entry.

210. 1838, Jan. 16. J. J. SANFORD and W. NICHOLS, Alexandria, La.

Statement of two passengers on the *Black Hawk* that they concur in Thomas H. Lockett's statement in relation to the explosion; sworn before Edward C. Leckie, Justice of the Peace.

Cy. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

211. 1838. B. WILLIAMS, New Orleans, La. To LEWIS G. DE RUSSY

Receipt for \$142,173 of public money to be conveyed to Lieutenant Collins.

Cy. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

212. 1838, [Jan. 23?]. [LEWIS G. DE RUSSY?]

Accounting of the sum of \$196,594 of Indian funds on board the *Black Hawk* when the accident occurred, showing a loss of \$9,594 in the explosion.

Cy. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

213. 1838, Jan. 28. [CAPT.] L[OUIS] PAIMBOEUF, Baltimore, [Md.]. To JEAN BAPTISTE POINSETT [*sic*], Washington, D. C.

He sent Poinsett a little barrel of paint several months ago which Poinsett has failed to acknowledge because of the pressure of diplomatic affairs; Poinsett is his only protector; encloses an order for 900 gallons of his oil paint, of which he has sent 100 gallons, for which he has drawn at four days sight; his [Paimboeuf's] paint is finding favor, without the great amount of advertising which charlatans use; asks Poinsett to return letter of M. Garnett by first post.

A. L. S. In French. 2 pp. 35.5 cm. x 20 cm.

214. 1838, Jan. 30. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]. To EDWARD N. FULLER and A. A. PORTER, Princeton College, [Princeton], N. J.

Accepts the honorary membership conferred upon him by the Whig Society at Princeton College.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

215. 1838, Feb. 1. J[OHN] W[ORTH] EDMONDS, New York, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT

He is sending his views concerning General [John] Tipton's appeal; he has delayed because he has been busy with public duties since April 15; there were some remarks in Tipton's letter which, in justice to himself [Edmonds], required some notice.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

216. 1838. W. J. WATT, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army, Buffalo, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Solicits his careful examination of facts disclosed in the accompanying papers; the President's professed friends are deliberately creating the impression that the government is indifferent to the strict enforcement of treaty stipulations in the Canadian matter; this unscrupulous agitation is inflaming the public mind in the United States and producing the worst effect on the opposite [Canada]; the Army performs its duties in an honest and straightforward way, but their efforts will be fruitless when the civil authorities hold up their actions to public scorn and odium.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

217. 1838, Feb. 17. JOHN L. SULLIVAN, New Haven, [Conn.]. To J. R. POINSETT

Wants to send him a recent publication on internal improvements and the financial system best calculated to sustain them; "I am happy to know that our works of national importance belong to the Department of the Govt. over which you preside"; the early execution of internal improvements depends on a permanent financial system founded on the nature of the government; the United States Bank was not able to resist the reacting credit of England; a stronger national bank, owned in part by the states by means of funds derived from public lands, is safest basis for national credit currency; he [Sullivan] is alone in advocating this; believes it will be popular; the Baltimore [Railroad] Company and others have benefited from his application of philosophical principles to railroads and their machinery; the railroad from Charleston to the Ohio will also benefit.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

218. 1838, Mar. 7. THOMAS J. WALSH, York, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter; he [Walsh] will "patiently wait for a vacancy, which may occur in your department"; David R. Porter, of Huntingdon, a member of the Senate, was nominated for governor by the Democrats; his election is certain; he is a favorite of the people throughout the state; it is rumored that the anti-subtreasury men, controlled by the banks, intend to nominate Commandant [Charles] Stewart of the Navy as presidential candidate in

1840; Pennsylvania still draws her lessons from the Jeffersonian school.

A. L. S. 1 p. 32 cm. x 20.5 cm.

219. 1838, Apr. 1. [War Department, Washington, D. C.]

Memorandum concerning the visit of [Carey A.?] Harris to the War Department to see the Secretary [J. R. Poinsett] about important business; he [Harris] was told that Captain [Samuel] Cooper was acting for Poinsett in latter's absence due to illness; Captain Cooper is requested by Mr. Poinsett to obtain a statement in writing from Mr. Harris.

Unsigned note. 1 p. 25 cm. x 19 cm.

220. 1838, Apr. 4. JOS. CARDOZO, Charleston, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

The solicitor of the Treasury is willing to reduce the installments of his [Cardozo's] debt to the United States provided he gives judgment for the whole amount of the claim; this would be tantamount to closing the doors of his establishment, for the printing of newspapers is conducted on a credit basis; wants Poinsett to persuade the solicitor to waive latter part of the arrangement; the old claim and old mortgages must be cancelled on giving a new bond and mortgage; he has published Poinsett's plan for reorganization of the militia; it is a statesmanlike scheme; his [Cardozo's] advocacy of government plan for custody and receipt of public money was voluntary; he was among first to do so in the South, at great risk to himself; this entitles him to the consideration and assistance of the administration.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

221. 1838. CAPTAIN R. D. C. COLLINS, United States Army, Little Rock, Ark. To C[AREY] A. HARRIS, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, [Washington, D. C.]

Forwards his account of disbursements made on account of treaty stipulations and current expenses for the first quarter of 1838; the amount of specie brought by Major De Russy was short \$370; Major De Russy sent him a draft for \$1,173 on the receivers of public money at Washington, Arkansas, as a part of Cherokee funds; on presentation this draft was protested on grounds that notice had not been given; he is communicating with De Russy on the matter.

Cy. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

222. 1838, July 2. PETER S. DU PONCEAU, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Introduces Mr. William Kennedy, an English gentleman and a man of letters, who has been recommended to him from London; Kennedy wishes to meet principal scientific and literary characters in United States.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

223. 1838, Aug. 8. MAJOR H. M. RUTLEDGE, United States Army, Chilhowee, [Tenn.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

He has just returned from Cherokee Agency, where he heard from General [Winfield] Scott and General [Abraham] Eustis that Poinsett has recovered from his illness; Scott deserves credit for his work with Cherokee Indians, who are now convinced that their removal [from Georgia] is necessary; he [Rutledge] has advised his son, a lieutenant of artillery, to resign his post in the Army because there is no probability that the United States will have a military establishment like that of other nations; the volunteers take precedence over the regular Army; the former have carried democratic principles into the camp, and elect their own officers; Congress approves of this; Poinsett's plan for reorganization of the Army is a sound one, but there is much opposition to it; he [Rutledge] deplores the loss of the *Pulaski* and the destruction of life resulting from the accident; "These horrid accidents . . . proceed in my opinion from our ultra democracy in which every man claims the right of running his boats, and his stages, exactly as he pleases, and bids defiance to all legal restraints."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

224. 1838, Sept. 13. M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Sweet Spr[in]g, [Va., now W. Va.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Hot Springs, Va.

Encloses letter from Mr. [James K.] Paulding, [Secretary of the Navy], and a note with fuller information, "to secure a safe and certain communication to our Citizens with Mexico, with the contingent advantages and facilities which may be hereafter allowed to Packets, would be a sufficient inducement to carry out the measure proposed"; wants Poinsett to consider matter carefully and write to Paulding; he [Van Buren] did not read General Smith's communication concerning the Cherokee question because he considered the matter settled; wants Poinsett to be careful in his selection of papers

to be filed in that case; he intends to go to Natural Bridge [Va.] tomorrow *via* Covington, [Ky.], and Lexington, [Ky.].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 24.5 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosures missing.

225. 1838, Sept. 18. G. A. PERDICARIS, Athens, [Greece].
To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Introduces Mr. C. R. Martuscelli, lately appointed consul general of Naples and the two Sicilies in the United States; Martuscelli has represented the King of Naples at the Court of King Otho [of Greece] for the past five years and is therefore well acquainted with the past and present condition of Greece, concerning which he can inform Poinsett.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

226. 1838, Sept. 24. J. R. POINSETT, Hot Springs, [Va.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

His health is much improved, and he is returning to Washington; letters from [Thomas] Bennett and Alfred Huger, "written with some feeling on the subject of [Hugh] Legaré's election," trace the opposition of the party in Charleston to [John C.] Calhoun's influence; he [Poinsett] has told them that Calhoun is blameless in the matter, for he really wanted Judge [Daniel] Huger or [Charles] Memminger to be the opposing candidate; friends of the administration would not support Legaré's election; he [Poinsett] told Bennett and Huger that if Calhoun gains strength in the election they have themselves to blame; "We ought not to have refused the proffered boon knowing that the incumbent [Legaré] is regarded both in and out of the state as an enemy of the Administration," though he boasts that he is not; feeling in Washington is so strong that he [Poinsett] could not favor Legaré without being considered inimical to the administration; Bennett is interested in Legaré's success; Poinsett has every reason to want to oblige Bennett, but he cannot support Legaré because of the opposition he has excited among friends of the administration; he is grateful for Legaré's support of his measures; suggests his friends drop Legaré and take up a friend of the administration; "I learn . . . that your election was strangely mismanaged . . . it must have been, for I cannot think our friends and old party so forgetful of your services as to desert you at the eleventh hour"; Mrs. Poinsett's health improved in the mountains; the President has gone to Lee's Springs, Fauquier County [Va.], where the Poinsetts will rejoin him, and from there they will return to Washington.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

227. 1838, Oct. 15. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOSEPH JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Has sent [Edward] McCrady a paper vindicating his [Poinsett's] reputation for fair dealing and consistency; he [Poinsett] has been divided between his friendly feeling for [Hugh] Legaré and his sense of duty to the administration; he had to refuse when [Thomas] Bennett and [Alfred] Huger asked him to interfere directly in Legaré's behalf; his political friends taunted him for favoring election of an opponent of the administration; he would not have written to him [Johnson] as he did if he had known that he favored Legaré; in order to repair damage he [Poinsett] wrote to Campbell urging his withdrawal from this contest and the nomination of some other person, and telling him that he had refused Bennett's and Huger's request that he aid in Legaré's election; Campbell then accused Bennett and Huger of falsehood; trouble would have been averted if confidential letters had not been exhibited to the public; in both contests in which Legaré was engaged his [Poinsett's] friends were ready to sacrifice him to Legaré's interests; he [Poinsett] has never acted a double part; he wrote the same thing to both parties, to Bennett and Huger as well as to [Robert B.] Rhett, McCrady, and Campbell; he cannot sacrifice his sense of duty to his personal feelings; he may never need the votes of Charleston again, but "it is desirable we should have a party there"; they must no longer expect support from those who have been united to them; only Judge [Daniel] Huger has acted fairly and honorably; he [Poinsett] does not blame Bennett, who was led away by the heat of the election contest and who did not know the standing of Legaré in the administration party.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

228. 1838, Oct. 15. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Statement of his actions and views in regard to the re-election of Hugh Legaré as Representative from Charleston district; he is a personal friend of Legaré, and has appreciated the latter's support of his policies as Secretary of War; he [Poinsett] suggested that Legaré be dropped because he did not represent the feelings or principles of his constituents, and that either Judge Huger, Mr. [Thomas] Bennett, or Mr. [Charles] Memminger be run in his place; does not want a nullifier or a political enemy to represent Charleston; in a letter to Alfred Huger he denied the current rumor in Charleston that Legaré was unfriendly to him; he cannot sacrifice his sense of duty to his personal feelings for Legaré; he is defending himself from charges of inconsistency made in public papers; he wants to preserve good opinion of his fellow citizens.

A. D. S. 3 pp. 37 cm. x 21.5 cm.

229. 1838, Oct. 25. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Wants Johnson to ask [Edward] McCrady to return the statement explaining his views in the [Hugh] Legaré matter; "I have had abuse enough poured upon me by the Whig presses to render it desirable that the whole affair should be dropped. From the manner in which they treat the rejection of Mr. Legaré I am thoroughly convinced, that if he had been re-elected by my intervention, I could not honorably have retained my seat in the cabinet."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

230. 1838, Dec. 31. MINER K. KELLOGG, West Point, N. Y. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

He is at West Point through Poinsett's favor; he has been there three months, and appreciates the benefits to be derived from his studies; he is lodging with Mr. [Dennis] Mohan, [professor of engineering and dean]; Lieutenant [William] Bliss teaches him geometry, and Lieutenant [Bradford] Alden, French; Professor [Robert] Weir teaches him drawing; hopes to prove himself worthy of Poinsett's favor.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

231. 1839, Jan. 19. D[AVID] LEVY, St. Augustine, [Fla.].
To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Governor [Richard K.] Call [of Florida] has issued further bonds, of which the amount is said to be \$350,000, for the Southern Life and Trust Bank, thus increasing Florida's public debt; steps should be taken to prevent the sale of the bonds already issued; encloses list of newly-elected bank officers, withheld from the public until a formal demand for them was made; George Field "of Lockport memory" is the president; question of Call's removal was still in suspense when he issued the bonds; compliments Poinsett on his plans for reorganization of his department; mail is twelve to fourteen days in coming to Florida from Washington; this delay prevents possibility of beneficial influence of Florida on acts of Congress; Governor [Robert R.] Reid's [successor to Call] message soon will be in Washington; sends Poinsett newspaper clipping concerning the appointment of Reid; Poinsett was justified in influencing the appointment; the people of Florida approve of it; the legislature will be in full swing in Tallahassee in about ten days; the *Flirt*, Captain McLaughlin, arrived yesterday and proceeds south this evening; there is no Indian news from [Zachary] Taylor; he cannot

send Mrs. Poinsett the oranges he promised this season; wants to know who is Poinsett's editor in Charleston.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

232. 1839, Mar. 8. D[ENNIS] A. SMITH, Baltimore, [Md:]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Mr. Swan is proposing to sell 20,000 acres of land in Maryland; asks Poinsett to become a partner in this productive speculation; price is nine dollars an acre; it will be worth thirty dollars an acre after completion of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; there will be only a few subscribers, as each one must buy at least \$5,000 worth of stock; Mr. Swan will retain one-third interest; he [Smith] hopes to obtain an additional \$500,000 in London to develop the natural resources of the lands; mentions various companies already formed in which lands in Maryland are valued at more than thirty dollars an acre; Mr. Swan is president of Merchants Bank of Baltimore; his willingness to share in the prospective company is a sufficient guarantee; asks him to return the enclosed printed sheets; hopes to induce [Nicholas] Biddle to subscribe.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

233. 1839, Mar. 11. N[ICHOLAS] BIDDLE, Phil[adelphia, Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Wash[ingto]n, D. C.

He asks Poinsett to give consideration to the application of Lieutenant James Wilkinson Penrose, now at Fort Brooke on Tampa Bay, for the position of Commissary of Subsistence; Penrose's friends, who requested Biddle to write, think him competent; "I am not at all acquainted with Lieutenant Penrose, who must of course stand on his own merits . . . The only apology . . . is that as everybody insists that you do everything in Wash[ingto]n, you must take the troubles, along with the pleasures, of omnipotence."

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20.5 cm.

234. 1839, [Mar.?]. J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]. To [D. A. SMITH]

He has carefully examined the project of forming a company to purchase Mr. Swan's lands; he would accept his [Smith's] invitation to become a shareholder, but "I have determined during the period of my holding office to embark in no project however lucrative in prospect that wears the semblance of speculation."

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

235. 1839, Apr. 15. SAM[UE]L FINDLAY, Cincinnati, [Ohio]. To LEWIS G. DE RUSSY

Attached is Captain Rudd's deposition in response to De Russy's letter of March 25 concerning the loss of Government money in the explosion of the steamboat *Black Hawk* in 1837; believes it will be of assistance to De Russy; costs are ten dollars.

Cy. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

See next entry for deposition.

236. 1839, Apr. 15. DAVID RUDD, Cincinnati, Ohio

Deposition, sworn before Mayor Samuel W. Davies of Cincinnati, that he took charge of the steamboat *Black Hawk* after the explosion, at the request of Lewis G. De Russy, and did all that he could to save the money of the United States Government.

Cy. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

237. 1839, June 7. GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT

Truce in Florida War will enable Poinsett to complete his "camp of instruction" by the collection of a force at Trenton; Colonel Clive had deprecated the removal of troops from the frontier, saying that peace at the border was preserved only by presence of regular troops on both sides; he [Kemble] considers the selfish and unmilitary feeling of the army officers the result of long peace; hopes to meet Poinsett at Trenton, where encampment has already started; General [Winfield] Scott traveled from New York to West Point with him by boat; "the passengers . . . gave him [Scott] three cheers . . . but he professed to deprecate being held up as a candidate for the presidency at this, or *any future time*—it is a hard part for him to play, but he does it with more discretion than some would have expected of him, and only overacts sometimes—his position is rendered the more awkward, by finding himself obliged at every step to defend the acts of the present administration"; West Point is prospering under Major [Richard] Delafield; both officers and cadets prefer the present discipline to the previous disorganization; he [Kemble] hopes to see the President [Van Buren] if he comes to New York; has had a letter from [Washington] Irving, whose nephew Poinsett shall not forget; he is sorry that [Benjamin?] Howard refuses again to be a candidate for Congress.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

238. 1839, July 20. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Returns a blank bond sent him by Philip Patrick; he declines to sign it, not because he doubts Patrick's integrity, but because of a rule he has established for his own conduct in such matters.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

239. 1839, July 27. JOHN FORSYTH, Secretary of State,
[Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington,
D. C.]

He is sending a package containing the memorandum signed by himself and Mr. Knox; the President wishes it to be entrusted to General [Winfield] Scott, who is about to leave for Maine.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

240. 1839, Sept. 17. M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, President,
Albany, [N. Y.]. To [J. R.] POINSETT

Has just arrived in Albany; he is indisposed from fatigue and effect of lime water; Captain [William] De Hart has told him that it is not necessary to act in Colonel [Joshua B.] Brant's case until he [Van Buren] returns to Washington; wants Poinsett to prepare a report detailing the objections to the proceedings stated in a private letter from Poinsett, which Van Buren encloses; also wants him to draft an order to carry into effect the recommendations it contains; they will go over it together upon his [Van Buren's] return to Washington.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 25 cm.

241. 1839, [Sept.?]

Notes on the case of J[oshua] B. Brant, deputy quartermaster general; the President has examined the proceedings of the court martial, and asks that the court reconsider the whole body of the evidence; there are discrepancies in the charges as listed.

Document, unsigned. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

242. 1839, Oct. 15. Officer of the Royal Artillery, Deal Barracks [Eng.]. To MAJOR [JAMES D.] GRAHAM, United States Topographical Engineers.

Extract from letter copied for J. R. Poinsett; he is one of a committee of three officers selected to experiment with heavy guns of

different weights, lengths, and windages; describes results of experiments; they have obtained a range of 5,720 yards, believed the longest known; their work shows the whole system of naval warfare will be altered in any future war; "No ship can ever live against the fire of heavy shells."

Endorsed, "For the perusal of Commodore [Charles] Morris."

Cy. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 19.5 cm.

243. 1839, Oct. 16. G. A. PORTER, Constantinople, [Turkey]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He has been serving without pay as secretary of the legation in Constantinople since the appointment of his uncle, Commodore [David] Porter, as Minister Resident to Turkey; he asks Poinsett's aid to have Congress make an appropriation for his pay; this is the first time that the United States has appointed a Minister Resident to Turkey; he has been with Commodore Porter during the ten years since the latter's return from Mexico, and accompanied him to Turkey because of the latter's ill health; his pay has always been insufficient, and he must leave Constantinople if no appropriation is made; he has two dependents to support; asks for a clerkship in War Department, in case he is not appointed as secretary of the legation in Turkey, or for Poinsett's intercession with Mr. [James K.] Paulding [Secretary of the Navy] for a similar position in the Navy Department.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 26.5 cm. x 21.5 cm.

244. 1839, Oct. 23. JAMES TREAT, New York [N. Y.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Encloses bill of lading for sundries shipped to Georgetown and Charleston according to Poinsett's order; Poinsett may pay his agent, A. W. Radcliff; he [Treat] is leaving for Vera Cruz [Mexico] in a day or so to assume his duties there; hopes he can lay the foundation for a good understanding; General [James?] Hamilton's address is care of James Reed, New Orleans, [La.].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

For enclosure *see* next entry.

245. [1839], Oct. 23. JAMES TREAT, New York, [N. Y.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Bill for candles shipped to Charleston, and for sugar and coffee shipped to Georgetown, by the ship *H. Allen*; amount \$75.34.

1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosed with preceding entry.

246. 1839, Oct. 27. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, [S. C.]

He has sent his [Johnson's] letter to the President, and he will confer with the President on the matter [of appointment of a judge in South Carolina]; he is sorry Johnson did not get recommendations from [John J.] Pringle and others; [Robert B.] Gilchrist is better backed; he [Poinsett] has read Johnson's views on the currency, which will help him to formulate his own ideas.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

247. 1839, Oct. 30. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

The President appointed [Robert B.] Gilchrist to fill vacancy created by death of Judge [Thomas] Lee; Gilchrist's acceptance of office of district attorney [in South Carolina] in difficult times, and his fearless discharge of duties in that office strengthened his claims; Judge [Daniel] Huger and Mr. [John J.] Pringle urged his appointment; Poinsett had to acquiesce in it; to oblige him [Poinsett] the President appointed Edward McCrady district attorney in place of Gilchrist; "I do not often give gratuitous advice but I wish he could accept it. The office will bring him in contact with the Govt., make him known and prove a step to promotion in the line he is inclined to follow."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

248. 1839, Dec. 3. Committee of Scientific Men, Boston, [Mass.]

Report of the committee appointed by the Boston Marine Society to investigate the properties and qualities of the chemical oil invented by B. F. Greenough to replace sperm oil for use in light-houses; the chemical oil is superior in every way.

Printed report. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosed with entry 288.

249. [1839?] M[ARTIN] V[AN] B[UREN], Washington, D. C.].
To [J. R.] POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He suggests that Poinsett draw up a letter [to John Fairfield, Governor of Maine?] in which he goes into the matter [of the Canadian boundary] as fully as proposed in the accompanying document; he is to ascertain from Mr. [John] Forsyth [Secretary of State] whether the suggestions are stated correctly; the feelings of General

[Abraham] Eustis must be protected by the mention of the imperfect and hurried manner of the communication.

A. N. S. 1 p. Written on verso of last page of an undated document in Van Buren's hand. *See next entry.*

250. [1839?] [PRESIDENT MARTIN VAN BUREN, Washington, D. C.]

"1. Expression of regret that a misapprehension on the part of General [Abraham] Eustis of a conversation you had with him at the moment of his departure should have given the Gov. [Fairfield of Maine?] the trouble of taking the steps mentioned in his letter if and before the [War] Department is in a condition to act definitively in the matter to which they relate.

"2. Statement of the circumstances to which your communication related and the object designed to be accomplished by it—viz. that in an informal conversation which took place between Mr. [Henry Stephen] Fox and Mr. [John] Forsyth growing out of the difficulties which had arisen in the execution of the existing agreement for the preservation of the property whilst negotiations for the settlement of the principal question are going on, it was estimated by Mr. Fox that his government would as soon as the negotiations assumed a shape that promised a speedy settlement either propose or be willing to assent to a modification of the existing agreements by which it should be provided that the two Governments would take upon themselves the charge of protecting the property throughout the premises by the employment for that purpose of regular forces. Believing that an arrangement to that effect could be rendered effectual to its object and free from just exception and taking into consideration the advantages it promised as well in relieving the state of Maine from expense and trouble as in providing additional securities agt. sudden collision on the frontier the President [Martin Van Buren] was desirous of being placed in a situation to act understandingly in the matter when the occasion for doing so arose which it was hoped would be the case on the receipt of the answer of the British Govt to the proposals of this.

"To this end he wished to have the matter placed informally before you and ascertain your probable opinion as to the expediency of the proposed plan which it was your intention should be done by Genl. [Abraham] Eustis.

"3. That the answer from the British Govmt has not yet been recd. but is daily expected, when the subject will be resumed if circumstances shall be deemed to favour its execution.

"4. A request to the Gov. [John Fairfield of Maine?] to consider it in the main in the aspect now presented to him."

A. D. 3 pp. 32.5 cm. x 20 cm.

For note on verso of last page *see* preceding entry.

251. 1840, Jan. 8. J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.].
To [MARTIN VAN BUREN, Washington, D. C.]

"Be pleased to say if you have any objection to this notice of General [Simon] Bernard's death—I think it will be agreeable to the King and acceptable to the French nation."

On verso: "Certainly not, there is no objection"; signed MVB.

A. N. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

252. [1840], Jan. 14. Z. DUNLAP, [Philadelphia, Pa.?].
To MAJOR [SAMUEL] COOPER, United States Army, Philad[elphi]a, [Pa.]

Leaves for Virginia tomorrow; encloses official communication concerning the Secretary [Poinsett]; the present position of the United States Bank interferes with the entire arrangement of the matter; hopes to carry it out later; his views are like those of Cooper.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

For enclosure *see* next entry.

253. 1840, Jan. 14. Z. DUNLAP, Bank of the United States, [Philadelphia, Pa.]. **To MAJOR [SAMUEL] COOPER, United States Army, Philad[elphi]a, [Pa.]**

[Cooper's] application on behalf of Mr. Poinsett has been considered by him and "such of the Directors of the Bank as I thought it best to consult"; in ordinary times the accommodation would have been easily granted. "The obstacles in our way now in making any loan are known to you and must remain until we are sure of the course which our own legislature may determine upon. In the meantime to obviate present necessities I will make provision as soon as you inform me of the date to pay the first \$9,000 at the Bank of Charleston," for which Poinsett is to forward his own note in favor of John Andrews, first assistant cashier, Bank of the United States, at ninety days; hopes to be able to carry out whole arrangement.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosed with preceding entry.

254. 1840, Jan. 20. [J. R. POINSETT]

Memorandum: Democratic citizens of Charleston and South Carolina "have stood undismayed amidst the impending ruin which threatens to overwhelm their dearest interests & most cherished rights." On verso: "\$9,000 sent to Dr. Johnson by U. S. Bank."

A. D. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

255. 1840, Jan. 24. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

He is frequently asked for copies of his speech to the Union Party at Seyle [Seyle's Long Room, Charleston] in which the adventure of unfurling the national flag is mentioned; he has no copies in Washington; wants Johnson to send him two or three copies if he can procure them, and to mark one of them for Thomas Baldwin, Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

256. 1840, Jan. 28. JAMES WEIR, Major General, United States Army, St. Clairsville, O. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

The President has recommended Poinsett's plan for reorganization of United States Militia to the consideration of Congress; he [Weir] holds a commission in the Army, and would therefore be interested in seeing a copy of Poinsett's plan; asks him to send one if possible; he gives Governor W[ilson] Shannon, of Ohio, and Isaac Parrish, Thomas Corwin, and J[ohn] W. Allen, Congressmen, as references.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

257. 1840, Jan. 31. RAYMOND REID, Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, [Fla.]. To [J. R. POINSETT]

It is of little use to talk to friends in St. Augustine; they are for division; East Florida could not support a state government alone; is sending the Quincy *Sentinel* which contains the sentiments of [John C.] Calhoun and [Francis W.?] Pickens; he agrees with them, except that he does not think the two sections of Florida should be admitted to the Union as separate states; East Florida would in that case become a northern state, and the native Floridians and southerners forced to leave, to go to Cuba, and elsewhere; abolitionists would gain a firm foothold in East Florida; East Florida as a separate territory or state will have heavier taxation than now; the South needs help against abolitionists, tariff men,

banks and Federalists; he believes Florida should enter the Union as one state; Florida can be saved only by upholding the principle of unity.

Endorsed in Poinsett's hand, "Raymond Reid, Florida."

A. L. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

258. 1840, Jan. ALEX[ANDE]R CLAXTON, United States Frigate *Constitution*, near Lima, [Peru]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

He has heard that his son has had another "attack on the brain" and has consequently had to leave West Point, where he was a cadet; his son has been educated from childhood for the Army; his sword is to be the one bestowed by Congress on the nearest relative of Thomas Claxton, Jr., his brother, who fell in the battle of Lake Erie; he [Claxton] is not certain of his son's condition, but if his health permits, wants Poinsett to appoint him a second lieutenant of Kearny's dragoons.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

259. 1840, Feb. 1. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]. To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Acknowledges his letter on the appointment of a receiver of public money in Charleston; he prefers Johnson to any competitor; if J. R. Pringle succeeds in getting the appointment, he [Poinsett] with the help of [Isaac E.] Holmes, will urge the appointment of Johnson in Pringle's present place.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

260. 1840, Feb. 29. [COL.] S. W. KEARNEY, Fort Leavenworth, [Kansas]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Acknowledges his letter of February 7 and thanks him for the respite of a few years which Poinsett has obtained for Mr. [Benjamin S.] Roberts, late a lieutenant in Kearny's regiment, to pay his debt to the United States; concerning the reserve opposite Fort Leavenworth, Poinsett shall ask the Q[uar]te[r] M[aste]r Gen[era]l to show him Kearny's official communications of May 20 and August 28, 1837, March 19 and May 12, 1838, and February 11, 1840, and shall also refer to Kearny's letter to him [Poinsett] on March 5, 1839; the reserve is necessary for the port because of its timber; whisky sellers must be kept off the reserve; the reserve is unfit for settlement, except for one point along the [Missouri] River where Mr. Underhill lived, and is therefore useful only to the troops; during Kearny's absence

last summer at St. Louis, [Mo.], Mr. [Thomas H.] Benton of the Senate visited the reserve, and at the solicitation of Mr. Underhill and others promised his assistance in having the reserve given up; as chairman of the military committee, he should use his influence to keep it undisturbed; there is still a chance of war with Great Britain over boundary lines; if it comes to war, he wants to be removed to the field of action; he read "Col. Mitchell's Thoughts on Tactics," which Poinsett sent him by Captain [William C.] De Hart.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 19.5 cm.

261. 1840, Mar. 3. GEO. ADLARD, New York, [N. Y.]

He suggests that the chief Cherokee difficulty is the difference between the eastern and western Cherokees; the difficulty between the eastern Cherokees, [John] Ross's party, and the United States government arises from first difficulty; the western Cherokees located in Arkansas on lands assigned to them by the government and adopted a constitution; the eastern Cherokees did not agree to the [removal] treaty of 1835, moved to Arkansas some time later, and did not subscribe to the constitution of the western Cherokees; he [Adlard] suggests as a solution that the eastern and western Cherokees form separate governments as the Creek Indians did.

Cy. S. 3 pp. 32.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

Enclosed with entry 266.

262. 1840, Mar. 4. [CAPT.] L[OUIS] PAIMBOEUF, Arsenal de Baton Rouge [La.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He has just learned that a fellow officer of the arsenal has written to the Department of War against him, because he did not sign the last inventory of their storehouse; wants Poinsett to suspend judgment until he has explained his reasons for acting as he has; he could not defend himself until after he had been attacked; Poinsett will be astonished at what he has to tell him, and at the sad state in which he [Paimboeuf] finds himself; his infirmity, his great age, and his lack of pecuniary means are reasons why he did not resign his position several months ago; asks Poinsett to notify him if he must exonerate himself at the War Department; he has been in the service of the United States for seventeen years, and does not deserve to lose his place through the letter of a young officer without experience; hopes Poinsett will continue to be his protector; hypocrisy, intrigue, and jealousy are dangerous things.

L. S. In French. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

263. 1840, Mar. 11. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

[Isaac E.] Holmes has assured him that he will favor the appointments of [J. R.] Pringle and Johnson; [Francis W.] Pickens has asked him [Poinsett] to tell the President that he has withdrawn his application for Mr. D[anie]l S. Huger; there is no doubt of his [Johnson's] success if the bill passes; Holmes suggests nothing be said on the subject, to avoid importunities from others; he is sending another *Agama cornula* for Dr. [John E.] Holbrook who "loves all creeping things"; Major [James D.] Graham will give it to Johnson and he will present it to Holbrook in Poinsett's name.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

264. 1840, Mar. 12. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, [Charleston, S. C.]

The movement in Pennsylvania to which Johnson referred was made without any agreement with Poinsett; he responded in Cicero's words, "*Nec Quaenere, nec spernere oportet*," to a letter from Philadelphia; he will take no part in political activities of his friends; the western members said that he stood higher with the party than either of the candidates placed before the public for the V[ice]-P[residenc]y by their respective states, but that he could not be spared from his present office; he answered that he wished to serve his country and his party in the most useful way; his health may not allow his continued labors; Colonel [Richard M.] Johnson spoke of the opposition to himself and praised Poinsett's integrity; the Vice-Presidency, even if it leads to nothing, is an honorable retirement; he [Poinsett] should be glad to see [John] Forsyth have it, but both [James K.] Polk and [Richard M.] Johnson are stronger; he told [Joseph?] Cardozo that nomination by convention would do mischief: "If it nominates Johnson the South will not concur; if Forsyth or Polk the west will object, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, states that have already declared their preference for the hero [Johnson] of the Thames [Ontario, Canada]"; he [Poinsett] would like to have the party declare that he is too useful in the Cabinet to be removed from it to preside over the Senate; he believes the friends of the administration throughout the country concur.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

265. 1840, Mar. 15. J. B. BROWNE, Key West, [Fla.]. To
JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Charles Edmonston of Charleston has written Poinsett concerning Browne's application for office of marshal of the district; the

present marshal is an auctioneer, a notary public, a commission merchant, the acting British vice consul, agent for all the underwriters in Europe and America, and is largely interested in wrecking vessels; one man should not hold so many offices, nor should an officer of the court be interested in wrecking vessels; he [Browne] wants Poinsett to present his application to the President.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 27 cm. x 21 cm.

266. 1840, Mar. 16. GEO. ADLARD, New York, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

As the subject [of Cherokee difficulties] is soon to be agitated in the Senate, he encloses some suggestions he made to Mr. John Ross; Colonel Sherburne says that Ross is not disposed to listen to the project.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

For enclosure *see* entry 261.

267. 1840, Mar. 16. J[OH]N L. SULLIVAN, New York, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

His latest improvements in railroad apparatus would give perfect safety in the utmost speed to the Charleston [S. C.] route; Kentucky would then prefer the railroad to the [Ohio] river which is always low in summer; he has also a plan of finance for the states connected with railroads which, if adopted by them, will reestablish the currency, protect the banks, and raise their value; his finance plan will make it unnecessary to borrow in Europe and will give the United States a powerful auxiliary for war; it would make certain the re-election of the President; he will sell him [Poinsett] his improvements for South Carolina for \$5,000, \$500 down; competent judges have approved his improvements.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

268. 1840, Mar. 17. DAVID PORTER, Constantinople, [Turkey]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Before leaving Washington he gave him [Poinsett] the only papers he had concerning his claims on Mexico, which were founded on those he had on Spain for rewards offered by the Consulado of Havana for breaking up a system of piracy which had raided Spanish commerce; a favorable decree had been made by the Consulado before he entered the Mexican service; the Mexican government agreed to indemnify him for the loss he sustained, and the state of Vera Cruz was to cede him land on the Guasaqualco River in place of his \$50,000–\$60,000 claim on the Consulado; the rest of the papers

relating to his claim on Spain and to the cession of land from Mexico were in his house at Chester [Pa.]; they were stolen after he left America for the East in 1830; he believes a member of his own family did it in order to use the papers after his [Porter's] death; he wishes to divide the proceeds of the claim among his heirs; asks Poinsett to aid him if he can; he is sending a copy of this letter to his lawyer, Mr. Sam Edwards of Chester [Pa.], who he thinks can get the papers from the guilty person.

L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

269. 1840, Mar. 18. J. GARRASON, Newmansville, [Fla.].
To ROBERT RAYMOND REID, Governor of Florida, [Tallahassee, Fla.]

Rev. McKay and Rev. Daniels were murdered on a preaching trip from Fort Walker to Micanopy, [Fla.]; Major McNeil was with them but escaped to Micanopy; the news came *via* Fort Clark; a scout has been sent after the Indians and to recover the bodies of McKay and Daniels.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

270. 1840, Mar. 18. JOS. N. CARDOZO, Charleston, [S. C.].
To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

He wrote to Mr. [Isaac] Holmes about the rumored change in the time of arrival of mail from the North, but obtained no satisfactory information; a change would injure his establishment; asks Poinsett for information; it is supposed that if Charleston harbor were better lighted, the Wilmington boats bringing mail from the North could run in at night, and thus prevent the occasional interruption in the mail communication between Charleston and the West; nautical men inform him that for this to be possible a light-house would have to be erected; even then the fogs would frequently prevent the entrance of vessels at night; the present hour of arrival in the morning is best.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

271. 1840, Mar. 20. RIPLEY S. HAMETT, Charleston, [S. C.].
To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

He has applied to James R. Pringle, the collector, for a situation as inspector in the customs house of Charleston; wants Poinsett to use his influence with the collector in his behalf. In the same hand is a recommendation of character, signed by R. Wotherspoon and J. B. Campbell.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Attached is letter of recommendation from R. Wotherspoon.
See next entry.

272. 1840, Mar. 28. R. WOTHERSPOON, Charleston, S. C.
To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Recommends [Ripley S.] Hamett for position named in attached application [inspector in Charleston customs house]; asks Poinsett to speak to his friend the collector [James R. Pringle]; if Dr. [Joseph] Johnson should be named collector as contemplated, Hamett's success would be ensured; he will be faithful in discharge of his duties if appointed.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

On page 3 of Hamett's letter to Poinsett. *See* preceding entry.

273. 1840, Mar. 30. WM. KEMBLE, New York, [N. Y.].
To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Sends his views on the practical effect of the issue of small treasury notes, in which matter he has laid aside all party feeling; he believes Poinsett desires to adopt a policy of currency regulation which shall benefit the country; says Poinsett is to destroy the letter if there is too much treason in it; it is for the good of Van Buren and of the country; the Whigs turned the election last fall by circulating a pledge "not to renew the charter of any bank or vote for any incorporation"; Mr. [Thomas H.] Benton's special system has been proved a failure.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

274. 1840, Mar. 30. J[OH]N L. SULLIVAN, New York, [N. Y.].
To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter of [Mar.] 28; if the President [Van Buren] approves [of his plans], they should then be transmitted to the Governor of South Carolina; if he approves, then South Carolina and Pennsylvania could sustain the President in the measure suggested; the influence of New York would be valuable; only part of the plan may be acceptable.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

275. 1840, Mar. 30. WM. KEMBLE, New York, [N. Y.].
To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges his letter of Mar. 20; a duty should be imposed on all saltpeter, not only on refined saltpeter, as has been done by

the collectors of New York and Boston; party violence will operate against sensible action in this matter until the presidential question has been settled; Poinsett's plan of establishing a national bank of issue would obviate the most serious difficulty, the want of a currency; the issue of treasury notes to the amount of five millions, redeemable in specie in New York, alone would furnish currency for ordinary expenditure; about one-tenth of these notes should be of the denomination of \$10; an issue of thirty millions would be necessary for a currency for exchange business operations; when the Treasury is not solvent, as at present, notes of \$100 and upwards would have to bear interest at five or six per cent; in the interests of business, without regard to politics, a national bank similar to the Bank of the United States is the only feasible plan for regulating the exchange of the Union; the power and influence of the old bank was paralyzed by the first act showing that it possessed political influence; the election of 1834 in New York City went against the administration because of the removal of the deposits, "when Mr. [Nicholas] Biddle imagined himself a politician and acted in concert, and by the advice of Mr. [Henry] Clay and [Daniel] Webster"; as a result, all thinking men rallied in opposition to the bank on the ground that if it was strong enough to contend with the government it was a dangerous institution; Van Buren will not sanction a charter for a national bank; a national bank under some title is essential and will be adopted in spite of Mr. [Thomas H.] Benton and Mr. [John C.] Calhoun; the subtreasury question has been before the public for three years; the only explanation for the delay is that Mr. [Levi] Woodbury has not digested a feasible plan; if there is to be no bank, the government must take the responsibility for the currency.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

276. 1840, Mar. 30. M. BIRCHARD, Solicitor of the Treasury, [Washington, D. C.]. To EDWARD MCCRADY, United States Attorney, Charleston, S. C.

Acknowledges his letter of Mar. 16 enclosing memorandum of an agreement concerning the debt of Mr. [Jos. N.] Cardozo; Mr. Poinsett is willing to become bound for the entire debt and will instruct his Charleston attorney to give a new bond; the United States should take a judgment for the amount due in the suit already commenced, with a stay of execution; when this has been done and the proposed bond received he [McCrady] may deliver a copy of the memorandum to Cardozo.

Cy. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

277. 1840, Apr. 1. M[ICAH] STERLING, Watertown, [N. Y.]. To [J. R. POINSETT]

Thanks Poinsett for his assistance in enabling [Judge Isaac H.] Bronson to go to Florida for his health; he is leaving soon, and if his health improves will be a good friend of the country and the administration; he has been associated with Sterling about twenty years; Sterling considers it prudent sometimes to contradict newspaper attacks, especially when one's political friends are concerned; the enclosed paper silences the old lie that Bronson sold himself to the administration and that Sterling admitted it to be true; he doesn't believe that Poinsett and Van Buren believe such rumors, but Poinsett was made the first victim of the story.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

278. 1840, Apr. 2. BENJAMIN FANEUIL HUNT, Charleston, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT

An immediate war with England is a possibility; his experience in the War of 1812 convinces him that great waste of life and property resulted from the use of drafted militia; with the sanction of General [Francis K.] Huger he wrote several essays urging the use of enlisted forces paid by the states; he subsequently became chief staff officer of the [South Carolina] state brigade; in case of war Charleston will need a considerable force for defense; he suggests a state brigade enlisted for five years to replace a drafted militia, the expense to be borne ultimately by the nation; the President and the Senate should appoint the officers; the state soldiers would be more accustomed to the climate in South Carolina than Northern troops; an armed steamboat would be of assistance; he is still at the service of the Union, though his "good friends abolished a commission earned by twenty years service"; he approved administration policies; confidence in the government's ability to face a crisis is strengthened by the fact that Poinsett heads the War Department; war must come sooner or later, for "England knows that Canada must finally be lost to her—she only awaits to barter it for Cuba or Oregon. The N. E. Boundary will never be run except by a military Corps."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

279. 1840, Apr. 3. JAMES D. WESTCOTT, JR., Tallahassee, [Fla.]. To [J. R.] POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

He is sending him copies of the *Floridian*, in which he is to read the leading editorial; asks Poinsett to give Mr. [David?] Levy a copy; the Republican party dreads action of Congress on the ques-

tion of division [of Florida]; division would prostrate Florida and ruin the country.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

280. 1840, Apr. 8. RICH[ARD] PETERS, Philadelphia, [Pa.].
To JOEL R. POINSETT

Circumstances prevented his fulfilling his promise to have Poinsett's report to the Senate on the use of bloodhounds in the Florida War inserted in a Philadelphia paper; now it is published in the *National Gazette*, and he is sending Poinsett a copy; he regrets that the exigencies of the service have made this method of tracking the savages necessary, yet he feels that Poinsett's report places him in high personal esteem.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

281. 1840, Apr. 9. M. BIRCHARD, Solicitor of the Treasury, [Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT

Mr. [Joseph N.] Cardozo has written that a judgment would prejudice his credit and that he desires to cancel the old bond; a judgment will be dispensed with if a bond is given with power to enter judgment upon failure to pay; upon execution of the new bond the old one will be cancelled with the mortgage, and the suit dismissed; Mr. Cardozo's letter is enclosed.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

282. 1840, Apr. 9. J. W. ALLEN, Syracuse, N. Y. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He fears that Poinsett's confinement during his illness and his close application to his duties may make him a prey to the bilious complaints prevalent in Washington; he suggests the use of "Congress-water" [from Congress Spring, Saratoga, N. Y.] as a preventive; if used with "hydriate of potassa" it is as effective as when used directly from the fountain; Congress-water can be obtained either in Washington or from Dr. John Clarke, Saratoga Springs [N. Y.]; the price is about two dollars for a dozen bottles; it is a good remedy for dyspepsia.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 33 cm. x 20 cm.

283. 1840, Apr. 11. I[SAAC] E. HOLMES, Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

He is leaving for Charleston, going *via* Baltimore [Md.] and Norfolk [Va.]; the contraction of bank paper has caused distress in

South Carolina; the notes are at par in Washington and Baltimore; there is not much indebtedness in South Carolina; cotton and rice crops afford every facility of trade; the difficulties arise from lack of a connecting medium of the elements of prosperity; the banks should supply this deficiency, but they are afraid to issue currency beyond an amount proportionate to their specie; the banks want to circulate treasury notes to relieve the community; if treasury notes are to circulate at par they must bear interest at five per cent; such notes will be bought up by Northern capitalists and hoarded as an investment; but in the South they can serve as currency without actually being currency by issuing notes bearing two per cent interest and exchanging them for bank credit in Charleston; the banks will consider them a specie and issue their paper accordingly; the government will save interest, and partly relieve the country of its distress which is aggravated by the conditions of trade in Europe and America; if prosperity comes by July or August the administration will receive credit for it; Holmes believes the tide is at its lowest ebb, and that better times are in sight; the people will attribute the return of prosperity to the subtreasury, for they easily connect proximate events as cause and effect; the government has large disbursements to make in Florida, and Charleston paper is accepted in Florida, he therefore recommends the adoption of his plan as outlined above; he suggests Thomas Godden as purser of South Carolina; Charleston has always resented the absence of national vessels and naval officers from her port; her trade has increased, and she wants outward signs of an inward prosperity.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

284. 1840, Apr. 11. COLONEL JAMES W. SCHAUMBURG, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT

The United States would be caught unprepared in event of war with Great Britain; the result would inevitably be an American victory, for American soldiers would be fighting for themselves and their country, instead of for a sovereign; the war would come in handily, for it would wipe out the debt of the United States to England, and settle the balance of trade, retaining an immense quantity of specie; war would develop the country's natural resources; new life would be infused into the latent elements of prosperity; immense immigration would take place after the war; American liberties would be firmly established; "humanity shrieks at wanton cruelty of our fellow creatures—and yet we are taught to think that mankind must sometimes war with each other . . . to destroy tyranny, to sweep away licentiousness and to annihilate increasing crime . . ."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

285. 1840, Apr. 13. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

His public concerns are so onerous that he is unable to attend his personal business; the offer made for the Bridge House is too low; it is worth at least \$12,000, and will fetch that when the crisis is over; the country will be upset and disturbed until the Presidential election is over; Mr. [Isaac E.] Holmes is going to Charleston for a few days; "he has behaved very well here, and used his best exertions for the interests of our city"; Poinsett has procured an indulgence upon [Jos. N.] Cardozo's debt to the government, and asks Johnson to renew his security for the debt; thinks Holmes would share the security with him if Cardozo or [Edward] McCrady would ask him; if the matter of war is left entirely to the federal executive, peace and the country's honor will be preserved.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

286. 1840, Apr. 14. WM. GRASON, [GRAYSON], Governor of Maryland, Annapolis, [Md.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Mr. James Murray has been charged with fraud in the settlement of Indian claims; his conduct as a public agent has been above reproach; the President [Van Buren] and Poinsett could show their confidence in him by appointing him to some similar agency under the general government; he has uniformly supported General [Andrew] Jackson and Mr. [Martin] Van Buren, and is talented and well informed; his character is irreproachable; he is poor, and has a family dependent on him; Grason wrote to Van Buren last fall on this subject.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

287. 1840, Apr. 15. ROBERT RAYMOND REID, Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, [Fla.]. To J. R. POINSETT

He recommended Mr. Barclay's son because Judge Jordan requested it, but [Walker] Anderson would be the better appointee; Barclay is a prosperous Englishman of dubious politics living at Pensacola [Fla.]; Anderson is now at Pensacola, and is a member of council from Escambia [Fla.]; he is a Democrat and a supporter of the administration; the recent appointments of Judges [Alfred] Balch and [Isaac E.] Bronson were disappointing to the Democratic party; they are unknown and without influence; it is impossible to make any compromise with [Charles] Downing; he is opposed to [Martin] Van Buren and is working with [ex-Governor Richard K.] Call to aid [William Henry] Harrison and the Whigs in Florida; the

appointment of Dr. Beattie as collector of St. Mark's [Fla.] is unpopular with Florida Democrats; Reid recommends S[amuel] S. Sibley for postmaster of Tallahassee; asks information on how Indian war is to be conducted in the future.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

288. 1840, Apr. 16. B. F. GREENOUGH, Washington, [D. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Form letter: he has devised a new chemical oil which can be used for lighting; it is an improvement over sperm oil; it is non-explosive: it was successfully used by order of the government in Boston lighthouses from Apr. 1 to Oct. 25, 1839; it produces a more intense light than sperm oil; the burning is similar to that of alcohol; it will not freeze at twenty degrees below zero; it costs less than sperm oil; it is made from articles indigenous to the United States; the Treasury Department has proposed its use throughout the United States in lighthouses; a bill authorizing its use is now in the Senate; invites Poinsett to be present at a demonstration of the oil in various lamps.

Printed letter. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Encloses report of committee of scientists. See entry 248.

289. 1840, Apr. 16. [MRS.] E. P. WADDELL, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To [J. R.] POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Asks Poinsett to permit her son Charles, aged 16, to remain with her a year before he is "summoned to his fate as a midshipman"; she needs him to console her for the loss of her son, Henry; she has had a letter from Mrs. [Dolly] Madison inviting her to visit "Montpelier" [Orange Co., Va.]; the society of her [Mrs. Waddell's] Virginia friends will be of benefit to her son.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

On verso of this letter is a note signed by J[ames] K. Paulding [Secretary of the Navy]: "I think you had better advise this good lady to return the acting appointment of her son, as she seems so unwilling to part with him, and if he remains in the Navy he will shortly be called into the service." A. N. S.

There is another note written to J. D. Simms [Chief Clerk in Navy Department] by J. L. Cochrane; "The Sec'y of war wishes the address of this lady which is given in a previous letter now in the hands of Mr. Paulding. Will you please mark it upon this?" A. N. S.

A third note is in Paulding's hand and is signed by J. K. P. "Gen. Wall has just left me. He states that Mrs. W. is a highly ex-

citable lady, subject to slight monomania, and that her representations ought not to be attended to." A. N. S.

290. 1840, Apr. 21. RICHARD YEADON, JR., Charleston, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Solicits Poinsett's intercession with the Post Office Department in the just claim of the Southern Steam Packet Company for compensation for carrying mail between New York and Charleston; their representative, Mr. [Isaac E.] Holmes, is charged with the matter and hopes to settle it without recourse to Congress; Mr. Hauschildt, who helped finance the Union party, wants Poinsett to intercede to place his son Jacob in the naval academy; Mr. Hauschildt is influential and worth cultivating; the administration's subtreasury policy is an evil one; it and [John C.] Calhoun together may prove "a mill-stone about your necks"; he is disgusted with the Whigs for their refusal to concede anything to the South on the slave question, but he approves of their position on finance; the [Thomas H.] Benton or Calhoun policy will injure the country.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

291. 1840, Apr. 22. DANIEL E. HUGER, S[avannah?] River, [Ga.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

William Lowndes, son of the late James Lowndes, is about to sail for Europe, and wants letters to United States ministers abroad; the respectability of the character and connections of Lowndes gives him a claim to Poinsett's attentions, a claim felt by all who were connected with the Union party; applications such as this come through Huger as a connecting link; it distresses him to have to annoy Poinsett with them.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

292. 1840, Apr. 29. CHARLES H. DOUGHERTY, New York, [N. Y.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

In September 1825 the schooner *Louisiana*, Captain Michael Dougherty, owner and master, was seized by a Mexican vessel off the coast of Sotta [Soto] La Marina [Mexico], and carried to Alvarado [Mexico], where she was condemned on the allegation that she was carrying a cargo from Havana [Cuba] to Sotta La Marina; Captain Dougherty employed [Stephen] Sicard, acting American consul at Alvarado, to claim the vessel and cargo; his protest and all other related documents were sent to Poinsett at Mexico [City]; Dougherty asks what steps were taken for restoration of the vessel and cargo, whether a claim was made on Mexican government, if so, whether

the claim is on file in the State Department at Washington, and what steps he must now take to obtain settlement of the claim, acting as attorney for Captain Dougherty.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

293. 1840, Apr. 30. D[AVI]D MYERS, Charleston, [S. C.].
To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

He has observed that United States and Mexico have made an agreement about the settlement of claims of United States citizens on Mexico; he asks Poinsett's intercession for the settlement of his claim; his vessel, the *Atlantic*, was seized at Sangrado.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

294. 1840, May 2. Washington, [D. C.]

Memorandum: John D. Lewis, of London, [Eng.], has a full-length portrait of [George] Washington, painted by [Gilbert] Stuart for the Marquis of Lansdowne; Mr. Lewis informed Mr. Sully in 1838 that he would sell it for not less than \$5,000.

Unsigned note. 1 p. 18 cm. x 11 cm. Endorsed in Poinsett's hand, "Picture of Washington."

295. 1840, May 2. E. W. LAIGHT, N[ew] Y[ork], N. Y.
To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Encloses letter of Dr. Gilbert Smith asking a favor of Poinsett; Laight and Smith were classmates together and graduated from college in 1793; Smith is a fine physician and an excellent man.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Note on the verso: "Enclosed letter of G. Smith asking that Captain Thornton may be ordered to a Northern Port."

For enclosure *see* next entry.

296. [1840, May 2] [DR.] GILBERT SMITH, [New York, N. Y.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Captain [William A.] Thornton is a member of Smith's family by marriage; he has always been faithful in performance of his duties; his campaigns with General [Winfield] Scott in Florida and on the northern frontier must be known to the [War] Department; he has been appointed to command the arsenal at Mount Vernon [Ala.?]; his health has suffered from his exposure at Forts Jackson [Ga. or La.], Pike [La.], New Orleans [La.], Pensacola [Fla.], and Mobile [Ala.]; he has accordingly made application to be moved to

the North for the sake of his health; Major [Rufus L.] Baker, previous to his departure to Europe, applied to Colonel George Talcott to have Thornton supply his place at the Watervliet [N. Y.] Arsenal during his absence; Major Baker suggested that the military store keeper, Lieutenant [James R.] Butler, take Thornton's place; Smith asks Poinsett to appoint Thornton to the Watervliet position.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosed with preceding entry.

297. 1840, May 3. WASHINGTON LOVATT, New Orleans, [La.]. To [J. R. POINSETT,] Washington, Md.

He has been in prison for two months and has lost his papers, but has produced all proofs required by law that he is a freeman; the recorder refuses to liberate him; Poinsett may remember him; he was cabin boy on the U. S. S. *Warren* at the Rio de Janeiro station, Benjamin Cooper, commander; when Commodore [George W.] Rodgers took command of the *Warren*, they went to Buenos Aires [Argentina], where Rodgers died [in May, 1832]; the United States minister [to Brazil] came home to Baltimore [Md.], also the consul, named Slocum; he is acquainted with all these gentlemen; he served two years on that ship; he is now in prison with no charge against him; wants Poinsett to see Slocum and arrange for Lovatt's release, as prison is an unwholesome place; he [Lovatt] was born in Baltimore, Md.; his mother's name is Mary Ann Frisby; he is a "bright mulatto"; he wants to be released so that he can defend his country if called to do so; his only offense is that of being in the state of Louisiana; Poinsett's answer should be sent to M. M. Robison, attorney.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

298. 1840, May 4. COL. JAMES GADSDEN, Tallahassee, [Fla.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter; things are very unsettled in Florida; there are rumors of murders and hostilities by roving bands of Indians; Gadsden asks for commissions in the new corps to be raised for Florida War, for Arthur F. Holmes and Robert H. Gamble, both of Florida; they have both been volunteers in the service; the former is a brother of the member [Isaac E. Holmes] from Charleston [S. C.]; the latter is of very honorable character and would do credit to a captaincy; both, as sufferers on the frontier, have a claim on the government; he [Gadsden] is returning to Charleston soon.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

299. 1840, May 4. ALFRED BALCH, Tallahassee, [Fla.].
To [MARTIN VAN BUREN, Washington, D. C.]

The inhabitants of the country bordering on the Suwannee have protected themselves against the Seminoles with pickets; the contest with the Indians is not really a war; the Indians are robbers, incendiaries and assassins who pillage, burn and murder at night and then escape into the swamps; "Florida is now bleeding at every vein and artery" and her citizens cry for relief; the Indians will not treat and emigrate; Balch's discussions with intelligent Floridians have led him to make certain suggestions to the President and the Secretary of War [Poinsett]; Congress should raise a new corps of 2,000 men with a brave, enterprising leader, preferably a Floridian, at its head; bounties in land should be given to the officers and men in the corps after the war; the corps should use Indian fighting methods; the territory of Florida should be immediately admitted as a state; the resulting emigration of settlers to Florida would push back the Indians; as things are now the war will last ten years; Van Buren's political friends are in the ascendancy in Florida; Florida as a state would therefore give Van Buren three additional votes; the "paper skin plaster system" appears in its most odious aspect in Florida.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

300. 1840, May 5. COLONEL JOS. G. TOTTEN, Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Encloses Poinsett's answer to the resolution of the House; he considers it an admirable summary of the subject; asks if he shall have a copy of the [Army?] Board's report made out and sent to the House.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

301. 1840, May 6. WM. TAYLOR, Point Coupee, [La.].
To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter of Mar. 28 and accompanying documents; apologizes for troubling him with his business at the Land Office, but he did not know how to proceed in the matter; the draft was accepted at sight; Mr. Cochran will attend to it following Poinsett's directions; he [Taylor] plans to send Mrs. Poinsett a barrel of pecan nuts next fall so that she may take them to South Carolina with her; he is certain that this term will end the political career of Van Buren and his cabinet at Washington.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

302. 1840, May 7. DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Mr. James Jervey told him that Mr. I[saac] E. Holmes thought the subtreasury bill would not pass this session but that the bankrupt law would pass; Jervey suggested that he [Johnson] apply for the office of commissioner of bankruptcy if the law is passed, and if Poinsett thought he had a chance; Major Heriott, the Navy agent, asked Johnson to write in behalf of his nephew, William, son of Robert Heriott of Georgetown [S. C.] for a commission as lieutenant in the Army in East Florida; Johnson advised him to go to Washington.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

303. 1840, May 9. M[AHLON] DICKERSON, Suckasunny, N. J. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Thanks Poinsett for advancing the money necessary to pay insurance and taxes on his house in Washington [D. C.]; he is to deduct the same and also \$35.50 for repairs, and to send Dickerson a draft on a New York bank for the balance; there is much pecuniary distress in his part of the country; even among the wealthy citizens money is scarce; business at a standstill, people unemployed, and prices low; he is not pleased with affairs in Washington; "Compromise and coalitions are my aversion"; he is sure Van Buren will be re-elected, and will carry his own state [N. Y.] and Virginia; economic crisis will lift in six months, and not before; Van Buren has gained in New Jersey since his message of December, 1839, "while log cabbins and hard cider are doing nothing in favor of Harrison."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Endorsed by Poinsett on outside: "Answered June 1st, 1840 and draft for \$242.18 on Bank of America resulted—Secy. of War."

304. 1840, May 9. ALLEN THOMAS, Elkridge, [Md.]. To JOEL PONSETT [*sic*], Washington, D. C.

Asks for a copy of Poinsett's militia bill; he has called a meeting at Ellicott's Mills [Ellicott City, Md.?] in an effort to counteract the false statements made by the Whigs; he believes the Whigs cannot defeat their party; congratulates Poinsett on his recovery from illness; their friend Gibbs is well.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

305. 1840, May 10. A[ZARIAH] C. FLAGG, Albany, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Acknowledges his letter of May 5, and agrees that any suggestion whether or not the President [Van Buren] was ignorant of the

details of the militia bill would constitute an impropriety; there is no feeling in New York State regarding the proposition of reorganizing the militia beyond an admission that the present system is defective, and a desire expressed by the militia and the legislature that Congress should make provision for a more efficient organization; there will be no publication here "of the character to which you refer. I should consider such a publication, on the part of the President's friends here, unwise, even as to him; and I know he would not be willing that his friends should endeavor to screen him from imaginary harm of the report, by admitting that it was indefensible."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

306. 1840, May 11. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

He will present Johnson's application for the position of commissioner of bankruptcy to the President [Van Buren]; Poinsett does not agree with Mr. [Isaac?] Holmes that the subtreasury bill will not pass, and wants Johnson to adhere to his former application for a position as collector [of public money]; encloses regulations for the admission of citizens into the army; if Major Heriott's nephew [William Heriott] qualifies, he will be invited to attend the meeting of the board of examiners; his uncle must send Poinsett testimonials of his moral conduct and sober habits.

At end of letter is a note in Johnson's hand. "Answered 18th and wrote for introductions of Dr. [Samuel] Priolean and Mrs. P. to Mr. Stephenson [Andrew Stevenson?] and [Timothy?] Tyrrell."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

307. 1840, May 13. BRANTZ MAYER, Baltimore, [Md.].
To JOEL POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

At the instance of Robert Gilmore of Baltimore, he is writing to ask if South Carolina has a historical society, and if so, to whom he must apply for rules and regulations of the organization; some gentlemen in Maryland want to establish a similar society "which will rescue the mouldering remains of our own State's early history from utter decay . . . I hope that your well known friendship to the arts and literature of our land will, also, tend to excuse the intrusion."

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

308. 1840, May 15. SOL[OMON] HILLEN, JR., H[ouse] of R[epresentatives, Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

"I am unable to furnish any information concerning Mr. Frisby. I know but one gentleman of that name, and I could obtain nothing from him."

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Endorsed by Poinsett, "Sol Hillan, Jr. concerning Washington Lovatt in N[ew] Orleans, [La]."

309. 1840, May 15. C[HARLES] J. INGERSOLL, [Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

"Secretaries of War are so used to solicitation that you will not be surprised when I own that besides the pleasure of seeing you and Mrs. Poinsett last night I intended, but for the raft of philosophers I got into, to have troubled you with the enclosed letter, which you will see is *personally confidential*"; wants letter returned with Poinsett's answer; his friend [Augustus L.] Roumfort thinks that his commanding officer has too stringent a dominion over him; Ingersoll is "not proficient in these matters, but as Roumfort is my country neighbour and . . . a very efficient partisan, I shall be glad if in the struggle at hand he may be so far liberated from confining restraint as to allow him to march about in my battalion of *sappeurs*"; the nephew of Colonel John Moss, who is very well qualified, wishes to become a dragoon officer, and wants to know if it is worthwhile to apply for such a post.

A. L. S. 1 p. 32 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

310. 1840, May 15. C[HAPMAN] LEVY, Columbus, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT [*sic*], Washington, [D. C.]

Solicits the appointment of Mr. Francis Leech to the board of commissioners, about to be reorganized, for claims under article 14 of the Choctaw treaty; Leech was receiver in Columbus land office and discharged his duties well; he is talented, and is the most effective and useful of the writers of the South Carolina Democrats; he voluntarily contributed to the South Carolina papers; he has defended the administration; Levy is convinced his appointment will be for the public good; Leech wrote *History of Shocco Jones's Travels and Operations in Mississippi*; editorials in the *Columbus Democrat* are usually written by him, as well as the political letters from Mississippi.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

311. 1840, May 16. [J. R. POINSETT], Washington, [D. C.]. To RICHARD YEADON, JR., [Charleston, S. C.]

Acknowledges Yeadon's letter concerning claims of Southern Steamboat Co. on the Post Office Department; Poinsett will assist the claimants; he has applied to the Secretary of the Navy [James K. Paulding] to have Mr. Hauschildt's son placed in the naval academy; regrets that Yeadon does not agree with him on the subject of the presidential election, and that he is not better informed on the principles of their opponents [the Whigs]; the currency question is unimportant when the safety of American institutions is at stake.

Fragment of a draft, unsigned. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

312. 1840, May 19. [GEN.] WINFIELD SCOTT, West Point, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He acknowledges Poinsett's letter with two enclosures, a letter from Cadet Baldy to Mr. [Daniel] Petriken and a letter from Petriken to Poinsett; Major [Richard] Delafield says that Cadet Baldy is known for perversity and inattention, and that he should be suspended for a year; there are two other cadets who should be similarly treated; Scott agrees with Delafield; much testimony has already been taken; West Point is in as good shape as it was under Colonel [Sylvanus] Thayer; after the examination is over, Scott proposes that the Court of Inquiry adjourn to New York [N. Y.] or Elizabethtown [?], make a synopsis of the evidence and give an opinion on it; in this way they will not conflict with the Board of Visitors.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

313. [1840], May 21. J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]. To H[ENRY] D. GILPIN, [Washington, D. C.]

Mr. [Ward B.] Burnett graduated [from West Point] in 1832 and in accordance with regulations cannot be appointed a director [?] until 1842; Poinsett has always adhered to this wholesome and necessary rule.

A. N. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

314. 1840, May 21. MITCHELL KING, Charleston, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He is soon to leave for Europe, and would like to have the letters Poinsett promised to procure for him or give him; introductions to people in England or on the continent will be most helpful; the object of his trip is to combine pleasure and knowledge, to meet

distinguished men of the day, and to collect materials that will illustrate the history of the United States; he believes that such material lies buried in oblivion and neglect in the colonial office in England; if he can gain admittance to that and other European repositories, he will employ people to help him procure the material; he intends to visit England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Italy; asks Poinsett to have one of his clerks procure him a passport; he will be 57 on June 8; he is five feet ten inches tall, "bald in the forehead with gray eyes, dark hair, and dark complexion."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

315. 1840, May 26. P[ISHEY] THOMPSON, [Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He has not yet arranged the constitution of the society [the National Institute for the Promotion of Science] in permanent book form; he employed a bookbinder to make a book adapted to the purpose; the delay is the latter's fault; meanwhile he has sent the sheets to Mr. [Francis] Markoe [Jr., corresponding secretary], for his use.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21 cm. x 13 cm.

316. 1840, May 27. JOHN PICKERING, Boston, [Mass.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter relating to Mr. Forrester, and he will follow his advice; suggests the appointment of Prof. Benj[ami]n Peirce of Harvard University as an examiner for West Point; he is extraordinary in mathematics; Pickering has just been chosen president of the American Academy of Sciences in Boston to succeed [Nathaniel] Bowditch; asks Poinsett to nominate two or three army or navy officers distinguished for scientific attainments for membership in the Academy of Sciences—"I say two or three because we do not want to make it too cheap"; Colonel [Sylvanus] Thayer, formerly superintendent [of West Point], is now a member; Commodore [Charles] Morris and Lieutenant [Charles] Wilkes of the Navy have been nominated for membership; asks Poinsett to suggest some South Carolina civilians for membership; Pickering feels it is important to strengthen scientific bonds between different parts of the country.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

317. 1840, May 27. JOHN H. MATHEWS, Haymarket, Va. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Poinsett's suggestion for reorganizing the militia is the cause of the defeat of the Democratic Party in Virginia; "I am an old man—

and an old politician and make free to tell you so"; but he [Mathews] is a firm friend of the administration; asks Poinsett to declare himself before the people in defense of the bill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

318. 1840, June 2. THOS. LLOYD HALSEY, Providence, [R. I.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Mr. E. Ritchie Dorr, who preceded the present consul at Buenos Aires, [Argentina], is in Washington soliciting his appointment as chargé d'affaires to Brazil; having lived here four years, he acquired a knowledge of the language and people; he is well thought of by the Brazilian government; Poinsett's assistance will be of service to Dorr and will possibly forward the settlement of Halsey's claim; he [Halsey] has followed Poinsett's directions in planting lucerne grass [alfalfa].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

319. 1840, June 3. J[OSE] C[ASTILLO?], Havana [Cuba].

Clipping [from the *Diario*] giving a historical sketch of the bank established in Havana under the auspices of Principe de Anglona, Governor and Captain General of Cuba, through the efforts of Don Carlos del Castillo of the firm of Castillo Nephews; the clipping is a communication, signed J. C.

In Spanish. 1 column. 25.5 cm. x 6.5 cm.

Enclosed with entry 362.

320. 1840, June 6. M[ITCHELL] KING, [Charleston, S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter of June 3, with its accompaniments; he is grateful that Poinsett applied to the British Minister for him; he is sailing from New York on the *Great Western* on July 1; he will leave Charleston June 20, going to New York *via* Wilmington [Del.] and Philadelphia [Pa.], arriving there on June 28; he will land at Bristol [Eng.]; Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co. are his bankers in London, Messrs. Ab[raha]m Bell & Co. is the mercantile house to which he is consigned in New York; asks if he can perform any commissions in Europe for the Poinsetts.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

321. 1840, June 8. EBENEZER BROOKS, Ridgeville, Va. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

"I am the humble tenent of a log Cabbin, and I still witness the blommer [noise] of the federallists in regard to the great standing

army . . . at every Public gathering we are harranged by the federal slangwhangwhangers untill Pure democracy is more and more disgusted and under a belief that all posible means ought to be in our Possession to confute them in their foul fraud and therefore I believe none would be so effectual as from yourself and under a belief that you would at all times grattify the mater which greatly interests them and is immediately connected with your official station . . . My object in writing . . . is to know whether or not you will answer a few plain questions in Regard to the Reorganization of the Militia . . . in order to aid in quelling the great blommer . . .”

A. L. S. 1 p. 33 cm. x 20 cm.

Attached is a copy of Poinsett's answer, dated June 13, 1840, *see* entry 325.

322. 1840, June 9. C[HRISTOPHER] HUGHES, United States Chargé d'Affaires, Stockholm, [Sweden]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter of Mar. 12; Major [R. L.] Baker and Major [William] Wade arrived yesterday in Stockholm; Captain [Alfred] Mordecai and Captain [Benjamin] Hughes were detained in England by the illness of the former, but will arrive shortly; he will assist them in the attainment of the objects of their visit to Sweden [to study cannon construction]; there are three cannon foundries in Sweden, all private property, and all of equally high reputation; their owners are distinguished Swedish noblemen, friends of Hughes; the three foundries are Aker, owned by Baron Martin Wahrendorff, Stafsjö, owned by Baron Gustave Bytterstolpe, and Finspong, owned by Counts Nils and Auguste Gyldenstolpe; Finspong is now inactive as it is being repaired and reconstructed; the other two will suffice for the commission, which will pay one visit to Finspong, where they will be privileged to witness a casting of cannon in a few days; all three of the factory owners will receive the commission at their establishments, and show them all they wish to see; Hughes will present the commission to the King [Charles John XIV] and the crown prince, who is grand master of the artillery; he will see that the commission is enabled to study the arsenal and everything connected with the artillery; Major Baker and Major Wade have witnessed an inspection of a regiment of artillery by the crown prince; the latter's son, the Duke of Sudermania, a youth of 14, is a sergeant in that regiment, and was inspected by his father just like the other soldiers.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21 cm. x 16 cm.

323. [1837-1840?] June 9. J. R. POINSETT

"I have made a pencil alteration wh[ich] may obviate the difficulty. Be so good as to return the paper to me tomorrow, and let us confer together on the subject before it goes further."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5 cm. x 12.5 cm.

**324. 1840, June 10. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, [S. C.]**

Asks for information about the moral character and intellectual capacity of a young man whose name and residence are given in an enclosed letter; he is represented as talented and speaking several languages; the person writing about him wants to do something for him.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Endorsed: "J. R. P. 10th June 1840 for Lewis Baker." Enclosure missing.

**325. 1840, June 13. J. R. P[OINSETT], Washington, [D. C.]
To EBENEZER BROOKS, Ridgeville, Va.**

Acknowledges his letter of June 8 which informs him that unfair use is being made of the plan presented to Congress for the reorganization of the militia; Poinsett will gladly answer any questions put to him in this matter or in any matter connected with his public duties; he refers Brooks to the reply he made to the Central Democratic Committee of Virginia, published in the Richmond [Va.] *Inquirer* of last Friday.

Cy. 1 p. 33 cm. x 20 cm.

Attached to letter from Brooks to Poinsett; *see* entry 321.

**326. 1840, June 13. CH[ARLE]S HUNTON, Fauquier
County, [Va.]. To M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Washington,
D. C.**

Encloses a letter from Major William W. Wallace concerning Poinsett's report on the proposed plan for reorganization of the militia; Hunton wants a statement from Poinsett or Van Buren to counteract the use which the Whig Party is making of this paper; the Whigs gained a majority in the Spring elections in Virginia by circulation and misrepresentation of the paper; "Many of us consider some of the provisions of this plan unconstitutional, and wholly indefensible, and do not hesitate to condemn it, and deny that it ever received your approbation"; Major Wallace is a political friend writing from the best motive; "if you think it injudicious for

you to answer the letter, or most proper that Mr. Poinsett should set the matter right, be it so, and we will give no publicity to the matter. . . . Our only object is to counteract the injurious affect of this plan"; if Van Buren replies, his reply and Wallace's letter will be published; the Whig candidate for elector for Hunton's district, Mr. Janney, will speak at Warrenton [Va.] on the fourth Monday of June; the Democrats wish to be well prepared to meet him.

On the outside of the letter is a note [to Poinsett] in Van Buren's hand; "Mr. Hunton is a state senator [Va.] and my countryman. If you have your letter in Pamphlet form or otherwise I wish you would send him a copy of it at my request. M. V. B. On a reperusal of your letter last night I was so well satisfied with it that I think it best to give up writing the letter I mentioned to you."

Note in Poinsett's hand, "Answered enclosing my letter to Mr. [Thomas] Ritchie."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

For enclosure *see* next entry.

327. 1840, June 13. [MAJOR] WM. W. WALLACE, Warrenton, [Va.]. To MARTIN VAN BUREN, Washington, [D. C.]

Mr. Poinsett's report of Mar. 20 on the plan for organizing and training the militia has been used in Virginia for political purposes; the Richmond [Va.] *Inquirer* alleges that Van Buren did not see the report before it was communicated to the House of Representatives; Wallace infers from this that Van Buren did not sanction the report; asks if Van Buren authorized the printing of that statement in the *Inquirer*, and if the details in the report represent Van Buren's views on the organization and discipline of the militia.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosed with preceding entry.

328. 1840, June 22. JOHN S. PRESSLY, [Fraziersville], S. C. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter of May 20; he returned to South Carolina, his native state, last month; on his journey through Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina he found only two or three landlords in favor of the administration, the people were vociferous for a United States Bank; he left Ohio May 7, feeling unable to predict the result of the vote there; an administration man in Ohio believed Van Buren would win by 10,000 votes, and the Whigs were claiming changes in their favor; Kentucky is generally conceded as going to [William Henry] Harrison; Tennessee is doubtful; he found many in South Carolina in favor of the United States Bank, but he doesn't believe Harrison will carry the state; he heard it

said that Poinsett and [Thos. H.] Benton were alienated from the administration; asks Poinsett to send documents on the budget and Treasury to his friends, John T. Pressly, John Steele, David Christy, Joseph Claybaugh, George Brown, Samuel P. Weed, Alex[ande]r Porter, John Hawthorn, Moses Magaw, John Pinckerton, James Boyse, John Boyse, Dr. Frazier, David D. Gray, and Ephraim Drake; he [Pressly] has given up politics, but not an interest in the welfare of his country; his address is Frazier's Post Office [Fraziersville], Abbeville District, S. C.; wants information on the principles and practical operation of the subtreasury; its opponents say the annihilation of the United States Bank has caused the lack of specie.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 32 cm. x 20 cm.

329. 1840, June 23. HENRY GOLDSMITH, Charleston, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter of June 18 saying that he [Poinsett] will apply to the Secretary of the Navy [James K. Paulding] in Goldsmith's behalf; asks if he can expect a favorable issue.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

330. 1840, June 24. J. W. STEVENS, Abington, Va. To [J. R. POINSETT], Washington, D. C.

He has read Poinsett's letter to Mr. [Thomas] Ritchie on the reorganization of the militia; he approves of the plan and wishes it could be adopted; the United States needs an efficient militia system for the defense of the country, in preference to a standing army; intelligent people will approve the plan when they understand it; the mass of the people object to having officers commissioned by the President instead of the state executives, and to the fact that the militia would be trained 200 to 300 miles away from home; when the political excitement abates, people will be more favorable to the bill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

331. 1840, July 6. AUGUSTE DAVEZAC, New York, [N. Y.]. To MARTIN VAN BUREN, [Washington, D. C.]

He attended a meeting at Tammany Hall, but spoke only a few words because of hoarseness; he will have his intended address printed in the *New Era*; owing to some mistake the concluding paragraph of an article on Poinsett in the [Washington] *Globe* of the third [of July?] was omitted; he [Davezac] read the manuscript to Poinsett's wife and stepson, but he does not want them to think he

intentionally suppressed the most laudatory paragraph; the Democrats in New York are enthusiastic; he recommends Mr. Tappan for an appointment at W[est] P[oint], with the approval of Mr. Delafield, brother of the President of W[est] P[oint, Richard Delafield]; the objection of the professors was founded on sectarian grounds; Tappan is a Democrat, and it is time "some good seed should be sown on that soil of W[est] P[oint]"; Judge [Henry] Carleton is in agreement; he [Davezac] and Smith had a tête-a-tête yesterday; they anticipate "a glorious hereafter for those Principles of which you are the incarnation and the apostle"; they intend to visit Mrs. [Edward] Livingston [Davezac's sister] and then go to Albany.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

332. 1840, July 6. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Captain [Alexander H.] Bowman is an officer and a gentleman; his wife is a very fine woman, of one of the old Spanish families of Pensacola [Fla.]; her father, at first an enemy, subsequently became a friend of General [Andrew] Jackson; the Bowmans have been friendly to James Johnson, Joseph's brother; Bowman's work on Sullivan's Island [S. C.] was successful; he built a jetty in the channel to turn the current, and extended a line of breastworks to produce a stillwater in back of it; their friend Lucas is ill; Fourth of July in Charleston passed off harmoniously; [John?] Campbell wrote a speech but failed to commit it to memory and did not show to good advantage; [Thomas?] Bennett has probably told Poinsett that the differences in the Campbell family are now reconciled; young Harleston Reed delivered the other oration and was also for the administration; his grandfather headed the opposing [William Henry] Harrison meeting.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

333. 1840, July 13. J. R. P[OINSETT], Washington, [D. C.]. To GENERAL W[INFIELD] SCOTT, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

The President [Van Buren] doesn't think it advisable to move General [Abraham] Eustis from the main frontier to Albany [N. Y.] at the present time; he [Poinsett] will write more fully soon, as he is now busy because of the approaching termination of this session of Congress.

Cy. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

334. 1840, July [13] J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Johnson will be receiver general for Charleston; Poinsett was reluctant to accede to Johnson's request to make this change; as collector he would have had less responsibility and a higher salary; he will have to furnish \$100,000 security for the new position; Henry Deas will be the collector of the port of Charleston; both nominations have gone to the Senate.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

335. 1840, July 14. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

H. L. Pinckney is candidate recommended by the South Carolina delegation for collector [of the Port of Charleston] if [Henry] Deas declines; the application is signed by J. Smith Rhett, Thos. D. Condry, [A. G.?] Magrath, etc., but by no merchants; they [the merchants] ought to bestir themselves for one of D[anie]l Huger's friends.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

336. 1840, July 15. [COL.] JOSEPH GRISHAM, West Union, S. C. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges copy of the [Washington] *Globe* which contains Poinsett's letters; Grisham would like to get one of Campbell's speeches; he believes Campbell lives in the same county as General [William Henry] Harrison; "Some friend of the Administration ought to send speeches and documents. [Amos] Kendall's address will do good. We have little else than Hard Cider—and Log Cabin speeches, &c.—From what I hear I think we shall elect Colonel Norris in the place of [Waddy] Thompson, [Jr.]"; the wet weather has injured crops; Congress will probably soon adjourn, as the sub-treasury bill has been passed.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 32 cm. x 20 cm.

337. 1840, July 15. [DR.] JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges his letter of July 10; he [Johnson] wrote twice expressing a preference for job of receiver general over the position of collector; he will accept the position for which he has been nominated and approved; Mr. [James R.] Pringle's death occasioned distress and confusion; Johnson talked to [Rev. John] Bachman about duplicates "from this [Charleston] Museum to yours [National Institute at Washington?];" Bachman will promote the idea but

Mrs. [John J.] Audubon's illness may delay matters; Johnson has resigned from the society because of some troublesome members among the curators, but he will urge the matter if called before the society; Johnson has recommended young D. E. H[ughes] for one of the offices; "I do not know what the recommendations of Mr. [H. L.] Pinckney are but was told yesterday evening by a member of the executive Com[mit]tee that it was said to proceed from that Com[mit]tee which he denied, saying that they never had been convened for such a purpose, or had the question brought before them, and requesting that the names of the signers as Individuals may be compared with the names of the Com[mit]tee as published officially in the *Patriot and Mercury*."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

338. 1840, July 17. J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, House of Representatives, [Washington, D. C.]

Asks Kemble to introduce the law for giving rewards for Indians captured and destroyed, making a distinction in favor of the former and apportioning the amount according to age and sex; Poinsett has spent some time in vain looking for General [Winfield] Scott's plan of a bill; Mr. [Walter] Coles has a copy; Poinsett thinks volunteers should be enlisted to serve a longer period than at present, as the defense of western and middle Florida is to be abandoned to the Florida militia; he suggests two years, or until the end of the war; short enlistments cause great expense and insubordination; 2,000 men will be enough.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

339. 1840, July 17. J. R. HAMILL, WM. B. CUMMINS, and D. R. GREEN, Shippensburg, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

They are a committee of the Kinderhook Association of Shippensburg, which would like to have a few copies of Poinsett's plan for the better organization of the militia as reported to Congress, and a few copies of his explanatory letter to the Democratic Committee of Virginia.

L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

340. 1840, July 17. [COL.] JAS. BANKHEAD, Poinsett Barracks, Buffalo, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Governor [William L.] Marcy is bringing Poinsett ten drawings of Poinsett Barracks made by Lieutenant [Augustus] Gibson and

Lieutenant [Horace] Brooks; the barracks are on Main Street within city limits, on an elevated site; they can accommodate ten companies, but at present the quarters for one company are used as an officers' messroom; suggests that \$1,500 be used to construct a messroom; he wants to draw together all the companies of his regiment as soon as possible; Inspector General [John E.] Wool is pleased with the condition, instruction, and discipline of Bankhead's regiment; Bankhead has applied to Major General [Alexander] Macomb for about a hundred recruits from the General Depot to fill in present and future vacancies.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

341. 1840, July 19. C[HAPMAN] LEVY, Camden, S. C. To JOEL R. POINSETT [*sic*], Washington, [D. C.]

He is taking care of his aged and infirm mother; he is her only living child; this is the reason for which he must decline the nomination as elector; he hopes to be able to return to Mis[sissippi] to visit a few counties; he has had a letter from "one of our whole Hog and unchangeable political friends" complaining of the equivocal course of Mr. [Nathaniel?] Ware, the marshal of the upper division of the state of Mis[sissippi]; Ware is accused of appointing Whig deputies; Levy's informer is reliable; if the good of the country requires Ware's removal, Levy recommends Major General Reuben H. Grant to succeed him.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

342. 1840, July 23. JOHN C. HAMILTON, Cold Spring, N. Y. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

He is sending Poinsett by mail a copy of the second volume of his father's [Alexander Hamilton] life.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

343. 1840, July 24. HUMPHREY MARSHALL, JR., Louisville, [Ky.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

He has supported [Martin] Van Buren for the presidency; his object in writing is to furnish Poinsett and Van Buren with a weapon of defense against attacks on the bill which Mr. Rives calls the Standing Army Bill; Poinsett's letter to the editor of the Richmond [Va.] *Inquirer* should have silenced the opposition, but this can be effected only by showing that the opposition's idol has expressed the same opinions as Poinsett; he quotes from a letter from General [William Henry] Harrison to Governor [Charles] Scott [of Kentucky], dated Vincennes, [Ind.], March 10, 1810, and published in the *Palladium* of that date; the letter is entitled "Thoughts on the

Subject of the Discipline of the Militia of the United States"; Harrison recommends therein that in order to perfect the militia, the training period must be extended, the men must be taught in disciplinary camps, the officers must be sought after and employed, obedience and subordination must be taught, the men must be shown that temporary sacrifices of personal liberty are essential, there must be rewards and distinctions for those who excel, professorships of military tactics must be established in all seminaries, the amusements of children should resemble those of ancient *Gymnasia*, and the government must pay the militia for the time away from work by the imposition of additional taxes; Harrison also contends that 100,000 disciplined militia would be preferable to the present army of 6,000 regular troops, and that the first object for the expenditure of government should be the training of the militia, for in that way the independence of America would be assured; according to Harrison, the United States "must become a nation of warriors or a nation of Quakers"; Harrison refers to this letter of 1810 in his response in February 1840 to the committee of the Louisville [Ky.] Legion as evidence of his approval of a disciplined militia; the quotations show the importance in Harrison's opinion of a disciplined militia, the necessity of making the existing militia system more efficient, the priority of the claim of the militia on public revenue over the claim of the fleet, the necessity for direct taxation to accomplish the purpose, the need for disciplinary camps under paid officers, and the importance of military education for the people at large; if Poinsett uses this information he can embarrass the adherents of Harrison who criticize his own militia reorganization plan; Marshall requests that his name shall not be used in the matter; he does not wish to mix in politics because he believes the subtreasury idea is fallacious and because of his dissatisfaction with Mr. [Felix] Grundy's conventions at Baltimore [Md.]; the Whigs in Kentucky are sure of success, and will, he thinks, carry the state by 4,000 to 6,000 votes; [Tilghman A.] Howard is expected to be elected [as Governor] in Indiana; his success will have a tremendous moral effect; if these extracts from Harrison's letter "make a noise" in the West, Marshall will strike a blow for Poinsett in Kentucky over the name of "Sully" to protect Poinsett's name and fame; Marshall wishes "the President [Van Buren] had shouldered your Army Bill and fought the battle with Colonel [Richard M.] Johnson."

A. L. S. 5 pp. 31.5 cm. x 19 cm.

344. 1840, July 24. MOSES DAWSON, Cincinnati, [O.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

The Whigs in Cincinnati are attacking Poinsett's report to Congress on the reorganization of the militia, and are misrepresenting it;

he should like to have some copies of the report for distribution; he has already placed a copy of the report together with Poinsett's letter to the Richmond [Va.] *Inquirer* in the Democratic Hall of Cincinnati; he has invited people to compare it with the plans proposed by General [Henry] Knox and General [William Henry] Harrison, but only the Democrats do so; he wants to distribute copies of the report to "the few sensible men among the Whigs" for their impartial examinations.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

345. 1840, July 24. AUGUSTE DAVEZAC, New York, [N. Y.]. To MARTIN VAN BUREN, Washington, [D. C.]

Mrs. Mathurin Livingston told him at "Montgomery Place" [N. Y.] that although the assigned reason for the opposition to the appointment of Dr. Tappan [as chaplain] at West Point is unorthodoxy, the real reason is the fact that Tappan is a Democrat; [John] Vanderpool confirmed this information and suggested that Davezac write Van Buren about it; Van Buren must "cut asunder the gordian knot of these federal gentlemen!"; Davezac will speak at a meeting in Dutchess Co., [N. Y.] next week.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Endorsed in Poinsett's hand, "Mr. Davezac on the chaplaincy at W. P."

346. 1840, July 24. DR. HENRY CARVER, Economy, Wayne Co., Indiana. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Asks for a copy of Poinsett's report on organization of the militia, and copies of plans of General [Henry] Knox and General [William Henry] Harrison; the Whigs are declaring that Van Buren and his administration are endorsing the policy of a standing army; Carver wants the reports in order to refute them.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

347. 1840, July 28. T. DUNLAP, Philad[elphi]a, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Edward Simmons, Jr., wishes to be appointed consul of the United States at St. Thomas [Virgin Islands, W. I.]; this would be an excellent appointment.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

348. 1840, July 28. J. M. ALLEN, Saratoga Springs, N. Y. To J. R. POINSETT

For the first time in his life he is without employment; he would like to have something to do, even if the emolument were small; he will attend to any of Poinsett's errands in his neighborhood; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

349. 1840, July 29. MRS. F. P. MARTINEZ, New Orleans, [La.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

She has just informed Mr. [John] Forsyth [Secretary of State] of the failure of Mexico to reply to her letters referring to her claim on that government; she has written several times, and has had no answer; the creditors of her deceased husband [Francis P. Martinez] are pressing her for payment, but she is impoverished; she must provide for the education of her five orphaned children, who have a claim because of the services of their father; she knows Poinsett's friendship for her husband and therefore she is taking the liberty of appealing to him for advice as to the best means of having Mexico pay her; she has suffered for a long time because of the frugality of Mexico, just as did the Mexican minister⁶ in Washington [D. C.].

Cy. S. In Spanish. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

350. 1840, Aug. 1. A. H. MECHLIN, Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

The President [Van Buren] has just appointed three pursers for the navy to replace those whom he removed for defalcation; there exists need for additional pursers, because eight commanding officers of the navy are acting as pursers on their own vessels; he [Mechlin] is unable to support his family on his salary, and would like to be appointed a purser through Poinsett's influence; he does not know the Secretary of the Navy [James K. Paulding] personally.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

351. 1840, Aug. 1. GEO. G. LEIPER, Leiperville, [Pa.]. To HENRY D. GILPIN, Washington, D. C.

He understands that as no appropriation has been made for the breakwater [on the Delaware River], Major [Levi] Reynolds' duties

⁶ Possibly Pablo Obregon, Mexican minister to the United States from 1824 to 1828, who committed suicide partly because of financial difficulties. See J. Fred Rippey, *Joel R. Poinsett*, 104.

as general agent will cease and the supplies will be sold out; both these eventualities would be regrettable; Reynolds is a most active Democrat, serving as editor of the party paper in Chester [Pa.]; his removal would be a Whig triumph; he should be retained at least until after the election if the appropriation holds out; the sale of supplies connected with the breakwater would be ridiculous, for they would bring nothing in, and would cost only a trifle to keep until a new appropriation is made; the Whigs are addicted to lying, and they will claim that the supplies were sold to discourage a new appropriation for the continuation of the work on the breakwater; Major Reynolds is competent and friendly to the administration, and he should be retained; they had a fine Democratic meeting recently in the county [Delaware] two days after the Whig convention; the latter was a failure; the Whigs' oratory did not "suit the morality of the county of Delaware"; and their profanity disgusted even their friends; the Democracy of Pennsylvania is sound to the core; Leiper hopes some arrangement can be made to retain Major Reynolds and keep the supplies; asks Gilpin to show this letter to the Secretary [of War, Poinsett].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

352. 1840, Aug. 1. [MAJOR] LEVI REYNOLDS, JR., Chester, [Pa.]. To HENRY D. GILPIN, [Washington, D. C.]

Acknowledges Gilpin's letter; economy for the Department [of War] dictates the policy of retaining the supplies for the breakwater in Chester; if a new appropriation for the breakwater be made by Congress, financial loss would result from the sale of the existing supplies which are suited to one purpose only, and the consequent purchase of new supplies; he wants Gilpin to explain this to the Secretary of War [J. R. Poinsett]; furthermore, he [Reynolds] needs his present position, and in any case he cannot leave Chester until after the election, since he will not desert the Democratic Party; his appointment is in the hands of the Secretary of War; he is planning to go to the Lancaster [Pa.] convention.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Endorsed in Poinsett's hand, "Mr. Leiper in relation to Major Reynolds answered—Major R's reply Augt 11, 1840."

353. 1840, Aug. 3. SOL[OMON] HILLEN, JR., Baltimore, [Md.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

The boats to be used in the Florida service could be built as well and as cheaply in Baltimore as anywhere in the United States; as proscription is the order among the Whigs, the Democrats should support their laboring friends; Hillen hopes that the friendship of

Poinsett and of General [Thomas S.] Jessup [Jesup] for Baltimore and its mechanics will prevail.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

354. 1840, Aug. 3. W. S. SHERWOOD, Glens Falls, N. Y.
To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Asks for a copy of the bill for the reorganization of the militia which was submitted to Congress last winter, and a copy of General C[lement] C. Clay's report in the Senate on the same subject; the Whigs are using section 17 of the bill to say that the President is to have complete charge of the militia with power to call it to service for any length of time less than a year, and that he is anxious to have this power; Sherwood supposes that the blank for the time limit was to be filled in as a fortnight or less; Poinsett may recall stopping at Kingsley [N. Y.] last summer, at his [Sherwood's] father's.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

355. 1840, Aug. 8. JOHN S. COGDELL, Charleston, [S. C.].
To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter; Cogdell has always maintained that he would never again ask for an appointment in the service of the government, but would accept a consular position made vacant by death or resignation; [Isaac E.] Holmes told him that [Thomas] Appleton, the consul at Leghorn, [Italy], had died, and that Joseph Binda has been suggested for the place; the Senate's refusal to confirm Binda's appointment would mean that Cogdell's name would go in; the appointment of Binda was confirmed, which pleases Cogdell; the latter would, if his income were \$2,000 a year, like to go to Florence [Italy] or Rome [Italy]; he had just finished a plaster cast of a monument of himself and his brother weeping over the tomb of their mother; the figures are three feet high; he wants to have it hewn out, and then finish it himself, and place it in St. Philip's; his work of sculpturing would be much easier if he were in Italy near Carrara, Florence, or Rome; if he succeeds, he will serve his country there in any way required; he has a portrait of Mr. [Benjamin] West belonging to Poinsett; asks if he should send it to Poinsett or to Dr. [Joseph] Johnson; he has many pictures which he cannot sell.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

356. 1840, Aug. 11. [MAJOR] LEVI REYNOLDS, Chester, [Pa.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Colonel George G. Leiper has given him Poinsett's letter of August 6, together with a statement from Colonel [John J.] Abert;

he appreciates their friendly consideration; but finds it unpleasant to be suddenly thrown out of business; Chester is destitute of active politicians; he contributed largely to sustain the press there, and he with some others raised money to employ a printer and a journeyman; he will remain there until after the election; political prospects in Pennsylvania are favorable.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

357. 1840, Aug. 11. MATTHEW KRAUSE, Bethlehem, Pa. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Bethlehem people remember Poinsett's address to them on July 4 [1840?]; wants Poinsett to send a copy of the plan for reorganization of the militia, as it is misrepresented by many.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

358. 1840, Aug. 12. ROBERT RAYMOND REID, Governor of Florida, Cedar Keys, [Fla.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Captain [Samuel P.] Heintzelman, assistant quartermaster at St. Mark's [Fla.], has been very insolent; Reid had to call out the militia to quell a disturbance which threatened violence in Tallahassee [Fla.], caused by the reappearance of Willis Alston and his associates; Reid believes the Union Bank was at the bottom of the affair; when that was settled, he left for St. Mark's, where a boat was to meet him and take him to Cedar Keys to meet General [Walter K.] Armistead; he was accompanied by his family, Judge McCarty, the secretary, Major Michaels, the assistant quartermaster [Heintzelman], General [Col. John] Graham, the adjutant and inspector general, and Colonel Shilman Daniels; these gentlemen intended to go only as far as St. Mark's, but upon arrival there they discovered that Alston and his men were at Port Leon, across the [St. Mark's] River and had designs upon Reid when he was without an escort; Reid requested the gentlemen to accompany him to Cedar Keys; Captain H[eintzelman] objected and suggested that Reid state in writing the names of those who composed his family and of those whom he wished to proceed with him; Reid encloses a copy of the letter written in acquiescence to this request and a copy of Heintzelman's reply, which needs no commentary; Captain Heintzelman is associated with the Bank party; General [Leigh] Read is at St. Mark's but is going on to Tallahassee; he [Reid] fears for him and for the tranquility of Tallahassee; asks Poinsett to send final orders respecting the general's brigade.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosures missing.

359. 1840, Aug. 15. LEIGH READ, St. Mark's, [Fla.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

F. S. Beattie, collector of the port at St. Mark's, will probably be dismissed because of his unworthiness and incompetency; in this event he suggests the appointment of John F. Kuckler as his successor; he is fitted for the post.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

360. 1840, Aug. 20. GEORGE G. LEIPER, Leiperville, Pa. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter, which he gave to Major [Levi] Reynolds; it was quite satisfactory; Pennsylvania will certainly go Democratic in the election; Pennsylvania "pursues the even tenor of her way. She does not split hairs like her ancient ally Virginia, nor boast large, like the Empire State but her vote is always certain on the side of democracy. If New York and Virginia will only prove true next fall, they will be forgiven for some indiscretions by their neighbors in Pennsylvania."

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

361. 1840, [Aug. 27]. WALKER ANDERSON, [Washington, D. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Mr. [V.] Butler was appointed U. S. District Attorney for West Florida in April [1840] upon the recommendation of Mr. [Robert J.] Walker of Miss[issippi], Mr. [John C.] Calhoun, and Mr. Cave Johnson; early in June he received official notice from the State Department, accompanied by an announcement in the [Washington] *Globe*, of his removal from office; later on he was informed that his sponsors had received derogatory letters about him from Miss[issippi], which they referred to the President [Van Buren], who removed Mr. Butler; the letters were sent to Mr. Butler, and he was informed that the President would hear his defense and would postpone the appointment of a successor till the end of the session [of Congress] so that he might be restored to office if his references justified it; the interval of eleven days was too short to permit this, but Mr. Butler is now trying to get letters from Miss[issippi] which will clear his reputation; he is an active friend of the administration, and his devotion remains unshaken; the President's action has made it difficult for him to establish himself and family in a community where he is a stranger; the Democratic party is weak in Escambia Co. [Fla.] and it would be politic to sustain its friends there; he [Anderson] knows nothing of Mr. Butler before he came to Florida, but his work in Florida has been faithfully discharged.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

362. 1840, Aug. 30. JOSE DEL CASTILLO, Havana, [Cuba]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Encloses the regulations of the bank, Casa de Ahorros, established at Havana [Cuba] under the auspices of Principe de Anglona, Governor and Captain General of Cuba; he encloses a clipping from the *Diario* which sketches the history of the bank; the establishment is the result of the brains of Castillo's nephew, Charles [del Castillo] of the firm of Castillo Nephews, but the idea was Governor de Anglona's; de Anglona is of noble origin; all their governors who came from the nobility have been a blessing to Cuba, especially Don Louis de los Casas; the bank marks an epoch in Cuban history; he is proud to address Poinsett on this occasion but sorry that "old [Edward] Livingston" and William Shaler are not living to witness the event; would like to have Poinsett send a notice to be printed in the *National Intelligence*; his son Jose Gabriel is his amenuensis.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosed is a newspaper clipping dated June 3, 1840, relating to the bank, and a financial statement. See entry 319 for the clipping, and next entry for statement.

363. 1840, Aug. 31. CASA DE AHORROS, Havana, [Cuba]

Statement of the financial operations of the newly established bank.

Document, unsigned. In Spanish. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosed with preceding entry.

364. 1840, Aug. J[AMES] K. PAULDING, [Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He is sending certain papers which were left with him to be given to Poinsett for the latter's disposition; Paulding does not feel that there are any radical differences in the two propositions "which will justify putting the negotiation at the hazard of defeat or delay"; [John] Mitchell's map ["A map of the British and French Dominions in North America," London, 1755] furnishes presumptive evidence, but is not proof, not having been referred to in the Treaty of 1783, and it would have to be recognized by both parties to have any validity; Paulding does not know whether the decision will be affected by commencing the survey at one extremity or the other, as proposed by the two parties.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

365. 1840, Sept. 1. JACOB KUMMER, Bethlehem, Pa. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Since he believes that Poinsett knows more about the Society of the Moravian Brethren than any other of the officers of the government in Washington, he sends him the enclosed address to Levi Woodbury, Secretary of the Treasury, asking that the duty on a box of books be refunded; also encloses copy of *Brief Narrative of the Origin and Progress of the Church of the United Brethren*, and a few copies of *Sketch of the History of the Missions and Church of the United Brethren*.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

366. 1840, Sept. 11. [CAPT.] W. C. BOLTON, U. S. Frigate *Brandywine*, Toulon, [France]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

He has heard that Poinsett has been transferred to the Navy Department; although it is the place the Navy has always wanted Poinsett to fill, yet there is disappointment in [James K.] Paulding's failure to live up to public expectations; in his new position Poinsett will become acquainted with the facts concerning the recent withdrawal of Lieutenant [John] Kelly, who was first officer on the *Brandywine*, and his replacement by Lieutenant [Richard S.] Pinckney of South Carolina; Poinsett will observe the propriety of his [Bolton's] course, though Kelly left with hostile feelings; he [Bolton] had to rebuke Kelly professionally and openly on the quarter deck.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

367. 1840, Sept. 14. ROBERT GAMBLE, Oakland, [Va.]. To [J. R. POINSETT]

He has heard from a member of his family that the Indians have attacked a plantation neighboring his and have killed two Negroes and carried off several Negro children; middle Florida demands employment of a greater force than has been assigned to it; he [Gamble] believes that inhabitants of Florida are the victims of an experiment designed only to give a reputation to those who command the volunteer service; failure in the Florida War will bring censure upon Poinsett, for whom Gamble has great respect and liking; he [Gamble] will be in the neighborhood of Fincastle [Va.] for about three weeks.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

368. 1840, Sept. 15. HENRY L. TANNER, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

His son, who now is in charge of the mercantile part of his business, will send the map of Mexico at Poinsett's request; the cost is \$1.50; he [Tanner] sends as a gift a copy of the *Picture of Philadelphia*, a work he has just completed.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

369. 1840, Sept. 17. FR[ANCI]S K. HUGER, Pendleton, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges documents which Poinsett sent him; he was especially pleased with the report of the board of engineers on the defense of the frontiers, though he doesn't expect so expensive and protracted a program will be adopted; "we are in general so ardently and interestedly occupied with the present and ourselves, that we are not given to provide for the future . . . Individually to go ahead, and leave posterity to take care of itself seems to me the feeling and practice of our people"; he was pleased to send Poinsett the strawberries and raspberries; Celestine is now at Glenn Springs [S. C.] with her three younger children in care of Huger's son T. P. H[uger]; she hears frequently from the Captain.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

370. 1840, Sept. 21. ROBT. MILLS. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Poinsett is to write to Charleston, [S. C.], for prices of bricks, lumber, scantling, labor, plaster, painting, etc.; the house is to be 44 x 38 feet.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

371. 1840, Sept. 22. BAYARD CLARK, New York, [N. Y.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

His business will require him to sail for Europe about the middle of October; he will conclude his business in London, [England], and then go to Saumur, [France], where he will attend the cavalry school in accordance with Poinsett's request; he will translate as much as he can of *French Cavalry Tactics* for Poinsett before leaving; while in France he will be glad to obtain information about the cavalry school for Poinsett.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

372. 1840, Sept. 22. J. MURRAY, Annapolis, [Md.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Acknowledges receipt of documents which Poinsett sent; he has been campaigning in Maryland for the Democratic Party, and has vigorously defended Poinsett's militia plan; thinks it better adapted to American institutions and needs than any other which has been designed, and is the only alternative to a standing army; the plan will be popular when understood; if a change in the U. S. Constitution is necessary in order to have the plan carried, it is the duty of Congress, and not of the President [Van Buren] or of Poinsett to recommend such a change; the prospects in Virginia, Ohio, and N[ew] York sound favorable to the Democrats; the outcome of the election for the Maryland legislature next month is doubtful; his own county, Anne Arundel, is the pivot; by his [Murray's] efforts the balance has been turned slightly in their favor; a Presidential election immediately would mean a Democratic victory, but the effect of defeat in the October elections will be demoralizing; the news from Maine is disquieting, but Democrats will be more ardent when they discover "the fruits of this unholy alliance as there exhibited of whiggery with abolitionism"; wants statement of [President] V[an] B[uren]'s course in the convention of N[ew] York on the subject of suffrage.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

373. 1840, Sept. 23. B[EDFORD] BROWN, Caswell, N. C. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Acknowledges receipt of Poinsett's letter of August 26, and of copies of addresses on abolition by southern members of Congress; he has distributed the latter throughout the state; he will also send out pamphlets on the reorganization of the militia plan, comparing it with [William Henry] Harrison's plan; Poinsett's plan has been grossly misrepresented, and people are ill informed on the subject; annual reports of the War Department have advocated some such plan ever since the origin of the government, but only military men have been interested; the plan is almost entirely new to the people; the opposition has been making political use of the plan; the South is very much in favor of [Martin] Van Buren; North Carolina will hardly separate itself from the other Southern states in order to throw in its lot with the Hartford Convention and the abolition states; opposition to Van Buren has been desperate and unprincipled.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

374. 1840, Sept. 24. GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, New York, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter of September 18, and the enclosures relating to the plan for reorganization of the militia; he will have the more useful ones republished, although the opponents among his constituents continue to accuse the administration of desiring to create a standing army; he needs \$25 from the War Department to help out with the expenses of publication; he has another box of mineral ores from Putnam and Orange counties [N. Y.] for the [National?] Institute; this is the ore which makes the best gun-metal; the account of Virginia is cheering, but the result in Maine is discouraging; this is blamed on the hostility of the Abolitionists, who for the first time united solidly with the opposition; the low price of salted fish had some influence; a large quantity of it was unsold in New York market at the beginning of the warm weather, and had to be sent back for re-curing; the opposition has made the people believe that the low prices in general were caused by the sub-treasury law; the Democrats have gained strength in the river counties in New York, but the Whig Party organization is better, and the Whig affairs are in the hands of young and energetic men, while the Democratic leaders are all old men; the Whigs have plenty of money, and they lie without compunction; this difference may lose the state of New York for the Democrats; but he [Kemble] feels reasonably certain of the re-election of the President [Martin Van Buren]; Mrs. [James K.] Paulding and her family, and Mr. and Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott, are in New York.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

375. [1840], Sept. 24. JOS. N. NICOLLET. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Asks Poinsett to procure for him a map of the western part of Lake Superior; it is not indispensable as their work in that region is well advanced, but as the particular map in question is the official one showing the limits of British and of American possessions, it is necessary for them so that their work will be in accord with the treaties; Mr. Müller, the bearer of this letter, is a respectable German, assistant to Mr. [Ferdinand R.] Hassler; acting on Poinsett's orders he will be able to procure the map; they will soon pay their respects to Poinsett, as they are nearing the end of their work; if the memoir and the map of the English commissioners is not useful to him [Poinsett], he shall return it by Mr. Müller.

A. L. S. In French. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

376. 1840, Sept. 26. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

Soon he will send an address meant for the slaveholding states, but directed to his fellow citizens of Charleston, his friends and constituents, in defense of the administration against the attacks made on it because of Poinsett; wants it to be presented at a public meeting and widely circulated; he [Poinsett] has written to [John] Campbell to consult with [Edward] McCrady and others; wants Johnson to do likewise.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

377. 1840, Sept. 26. THOMAS H. BENTON, St. Louis, [Mo.]. To [J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.]

General [Henry] Atkinson, who is at the garrison twelve miles below St. Louis, is gratified at the confidence placed in him by the President [Van Buren] and Poinsett, implied in a note he received from Major [Samuel] Cooper; Atkinson's physical condition, however, prevents his going to Florida to take part in the Indian war; hopes for a Democratic victory are high in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, and Illinois.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

378. 1840, Sept. 28. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

He encloses a letter addressed to the citizens of Charleston which Johnson is to present to them; the letter is written in his own defense against attacks made upon him from Maine to Georgia, "to plead before a tribunal whose jurisdiction I have always acknowledged, and to whose verdict I shall cheerfully submit."

L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

379. 1840, Sept. 28. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To DR. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, S. C.

He is sending the address referred to in yesterday's letter, and with it the [Washington] *Globe* of September 26, which contains a statement which is true but not suitable for inclusion in his address; Poinsett feels the country is in danger of "having a government fastened upon us by Abolition votes—The South by its own fault may have an imbecile man under the influence of the Abolitionists elected by the votes of free negroes and of its own fugitive slaves—I hope and trust something may yet be done to rouse our people of the

Slave holding states to a sense of their danger"; wants Johnson to print his address, and the *Globe* article entitled "Union of Abolitionists and Whiggery."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

380. 1840, Sept. 29. [COL.] D[AVID] E. TWIGGS, Fort Theliman[?], Fla. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

In his official communication he has tried to picture the situation in Georgia, with the difficulties of obtaining a sufficient infantry force, and the consequent advantage of using regular mounted troops there; the field officer in charge of these troops would also be in charge of the frontier bordering on Florida and the Okefenokee [Swamp, Georgia]; the officer in charge of the Florida army could not act quickly enough in an emergency; he [Twiggs] has held only a nominal command for the past three years, and would like to be appointed to the command described above; he refers to his experience in the Creek and Seminole campaigns.

L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

381. 1840, Oct. 5. [JUDGE] J[OHN] MACPHERSON BERRIEN, Savannah, [Ga.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter forwarded to him by General [Nathan] Towson; Berrien's son will avail himself of the permission extended to him by Poinsett, and will forward his resignation as soon as word can be sent him.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

382. 1840, Oct. 6. ROBT. W. ROPER, Charleston, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

He thanks Poinsett on behalf of the South Carolina Agricultural Society for the specimen of Payta cotton which Lieutenant Sherbourne [John H. Sherburne?] brought from the Pacific.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

383. 1840, Oct. 7. V. BUTLER, Pensacola, [Fla.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

He has heard through Walker Anderson that Poinsett has interested himself in Butler's removal from the office of U. S. Attorney for West Florida; an enemy of his from Mis[sissippi] wrote to Cave Johnson calling him [Butler] a scoundrel and saying that his appointment would injure the Democratic Party in Missi[ssippi]; the President [Van Buren] then removed Butler from office; this was

necessary, as the President is held responsible for acts of officers appointed by him; Butler's offer to resign was too late, for notice of his removal had already appeared in the [Washington] *Globe* to the mortification of relatives and friends in Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Missi[ssippi]; although he does not consider his principles to have been affected by his disgrace at Mr. V[an] B[uren]'s hands, he has sent to the Department of State a certificate, drawn up by a friend, refuting the charges made against him; he wishes Poinsett to examine it; he is glad that the performance of his duties while in office was satisfactory to M. Birchard, solicitor of the Treasury; if the President is satisfied that injustice has been done, Butler wants to be offered an appointment to an office equal in dignity to the one from which he was removed; he will decline the offer unless the position is in West Florida, where he is permanently located; he will also decline the offer if another applicant desires the position.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 32 cm. x 19 cm.

384. 1840, Oct. 9. TH[OMAS] S. JESUP, Quartermaster General, Washington, [D. C.]. To CAPT. S[AMUEL] P. HEINTZELMAN, Assistant Quartermaster General, St. Mark's, Fla.

Encloses copies of correspondence which he received from the War Office relating to the collision between the civil and military functionaries in Florida; the Governor [Robert Raymond Reid] was a proper judge of the persons who should accompany him as his staff; Heintzelman's conduct was indecorous, to say the least; no army officer should become identified with factions existing in states or territories; he can be useful only so long as he is impartial; men of objectionable character sometimes get into office, but official courtesy is due them; the [War] Department demands an explanation from Heintzelman; the papers referred to are enclosed.

Cy. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosures missing.

385. 1840, Oct. 10. LIEUT. W. IRVING NEWTON, Norfolk, [Va.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

He is honored to be one of the two representatives of the 2nd Dragoons chosen by Poinsett to study cavalry tactics in France; because his furlough has been short and there has been illness in his family he has been unable to carry out Poinsett's injunction to see Lieutenant [Henry T.] Turner of the 1st Dragoons; as he [Newton] is now leaving for Florida to give evidence in the case of Colonel [John M.?] Hanson's slaves, arrested by General [Walker K.] Armis-

thead's orders, he will have to delay seeing Lieutenant Turner even longer; Newton and his father [Thomas Newton] appreciate Poinsett's kindness toward their family.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosed with next entry.

386. 1840, Oct. 14. THO[MAS] NEWTON, Norfolk, [Va.].
To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Encloses a letter given him by his son, Washington I[rving] Newton, to be forwarded to Poinsett; thanks Poinsett for the kindness and liberality of his patronage of his [Newton's] sons, which has been voluntary on Poinsett's part.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

For enclosure *see* preceding entry.

387. 1840, Oct. 14. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, [S. C.].
To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

John T. Robertson was acting purser of Charleston as well as navy agent; after his death the government claimed that a balance was due them on his account; he had expected that his pay for services rendered the government as acting purser would offset that balance but neither his family nor Ja[me]s Robertson, his secretary, knew anything about it; Ja[me]s Robertson paid between four and five thousand dollars to settle the government claim; Johnson asks if J. T. Robertson acted as purser on definite government instructions while he was navy agent, and if any other persons have been paid for performing the duties of two officers at the same time; Johnson thinks payment should be made in this case, as the family is destitute and the creditors needy, and there was no fault in the transactions.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Notes on the outside of the letter in pencil state that the claim was presented by H. L. Pinckney on January 4, 1837, and referred to the fourth auditor, whose report, adverse to the claim, was confirmed by M[ahlon] Dickerson [Secretary of the Navy]; the case cannot be reconsidered.

388. 1840, Oct. 15. JAS. ROBERTSON, Charleston, [S. C.].
To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

The late John T. Robertson was navy agent at Charleston for some years; he died in 1836, leaving his affairs unsettled; he [James Robertson] paid the Navy Department \$4429.55 in 1839 as security

for John T. Robertson; while the latter was navy agent, he was acting purser of Charleston and recognized as such by the [Navy] Department, and for this service claimed that \$5119.84 was due him; encloses a copy of this claim, and of the letter of Amos Kendell [Kendall] to J. T. Robertson when his duties as acting purser began June 23, 1829; Robertson's claim against the government has never been admitted; Mr. B. D. Heriot, who succeeded Robertson as navy agent, also acted as purser until the recent appointment of Mr. T. Gadsden; Heriot's claim for compensation as acting purser has been admitted; his case and Robertson's are similar in every respect; he [James Robertson] wants Poinsett to use his influence with the Secretary of the Navy [James K. Paulding] in this case, and hopes he will not be left to the mercy of Congress—"that would be a tedious and most uncertain source from which to look for what is justly due me by the Navy Department"; Purser Sinclair, who was navy agent prior to J. T. Robertson's appointment, was compensated for both offices.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

389. 1840, Oct. 17. [GEN.] J. I. MCKAY, Elizabethtown, N. C. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

He encloses a newspaper in which Poinsett is to notice two editorials concerning the President [Van Buren] and some of the Department heads; the Whigs are active in circulating these stories; asks Poinsett to see Mr. [John] Forsyth and Mr. [James K.] Paulding about the matter; if the stories are false, no time should be lost in contradicting them publicly.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

390. 1840, Oct. 18. RICHARD RUSH, Sydenham, Philadelphia Co., [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He will try to interest some Philadelphia bookseller in republishing [Col.] Mitchell's book; he read the controversy in the *United Service Journal* to which Poinsett referred, but he did not think it upset Mitchell or proved the bayonet to be the best weapon; the Whigs were beaten last week in Philadelphia County; in Rush's neighborhood the Democrats "triumphed under the very nose of the Girard College, that source of Whig patronage and sink of Whig enormities"; the results throughout the state augur well for Democratic victory; when full election returns are in, he will send them to people in Massachusetts, [Isaac] Hill of Boston among them, urging them to work very hard for the Democratic cause; Governor [James K.] Polk's [of Tennessee] letter to Gates is most opportune, and must do good or the whole South is mad; [Daniel] Webster's "gull-trap

for the men and twaddle for the women of Richmond [Va.] must also be serviceable to us. . . . Machieval says of Castruccio Castracani that being asked just before he died how he would wish to be buried, he replied 'with my face downward, for I am sure that my country in a short time will be turned topsie turvy and then I shall be in the same position with other men.' Every Southern man had better put such a clause in his will should [William Henry] Harrison be elected, but my faith remains unshaken that not a single slaveholding state can possibly vote for him. . . ."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

391. 1840, Oct. 22. JO[H]N M. WYSE, Deer Park, [Md.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He is sending a package of bonds certified by Dr. R. W. McHenry, certifying agent for sales of Creek Indian contracts; these bonds are of the kind rejected by the late commissioners who assert that they are not certified in accordance with the third article of the treaty; Poinsett overruled this decision because, although the certificate of the agent was not affixed, the bonds were really certified inasmuch as the Indian appeared before the agent, declared his willingness to sell at the price fixed by the agent as fair compensation, and accepted payment from the agent; this ruling and the principles covering the case are embodied in a report which Wyse and Colonel [John J.] Abert made to Poinsett, who accepted the principles contained therein; cases similar to these and certified by Dr. [R. W.] McHenry have been approved by the President [Van Buren]; he [Wyse] wants Poinsett to take these particular bonds to the President for his approval.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

392. 1840, Oct. 28. JAMES SMITH RHETT, [Charleston, S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter with enclosure of an extract from a letter written by a Congressman from New York; this he immediately published in the *Mercury*; the view expressed is a strong one, but Rhett fears too late to do much good; it is supposed that jealousy of South Carolina's lead has influenced Georgia against the Democratic Party; South Carolina is secure; the Democratic Party there includes some former nullifiers, upon whom Mr. [Martin] Van Buren can rely with certainty; "[W. C.] Preston's course is so universally reprobated that I am only surprised he has not been insulted."

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

393. 1840, Oct. 28. JOS. JOHNSON, Charleston, [S. C.].
To LEVI WOODBURY, Washington, D. C.

At a public meeting of citizens, Mr. [Isaac E.] Holmes interceded for the continued occupation of the reading room, and citizens, who had convened originally for a different purpose, passed the motion without discussion; a large number of them were unacquainted with the merits of the question; Mr. Holmes was probably instructed by the claimants to make this intercession, and Johnson, who feels Holmes should hear both sides of the question, will send him a letter with additional arguments and facts; he [Johnson] is sending this letter to [J. R.] Poinsett, so both Poinsett and Woodbury may read it before it goes to Holmes; for reference in any discussion with Holmes, he [Johnson] encloses rough sketch of the second floor, on which his temporary office as receiver general is located; Johnson suggests that the matter may be settled by granting money to the subscribers to the reading room to lease a room in the neighborhood, which would free the reading room to make an office for the receiver general of Charleston; encloses a part of newspaper clipping which describes the meeting referred to above, and quotes the resolution adopted, as follows: "Resolved, that the Hon. I. E. Holmes, be further requested to procure, if possible, from the proper authority, the continued use of the Room, in the Exchange building, now occupied by the merchants as a Reading Room."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

394. 1840, Oct. 29. JOHN VARNER, Lowndes Co., Ala. To
J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

He encloses two deeds duly registered in the office of the County Clerk of Lowndes County, Alabama, according to the request of D. H. Lewis; the fee is \$2.50, which is to be remitted at once; all the land is situated in Lowndes County.

Letter written and signed by John T. Pruitt. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

395. 1840, Nov. 1. D[AVID] B. WARDEN, Paris, [France].
To COL. [J. R.] POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Acknowledges the documents Poinsett sent, and the plan of a scientific institution; he encloses an extract from the regulations for the organization of the Garden of Plants [Paris]; he is sending a copy of his catalogue for the [National] Institute, and will send a collection of minerals if he can procure them from the school of mines; he hopes Poinsett's plan will be approved by Congress, as "an establish-

ment of this kind would be both useful and honorable for the United States."

A. L. S. 1 p. 21 cm. x 17 cm.

396. 1840, Nov. 11. J. MURRAY, Annapolis, [Md.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Wants to obtain a midshipman's warrant for his son Henry M. Murray, now between 16 and 17 years of age; he is able, talented, of good moral character, and healthy; he [J. Murray] wanted to prepare his son for one of the professions, but was unable to do so; under present circumstances he wants to ask no favors of Mr. [Martin] Van Buren, and he knows he can expect nothing from General [William Henry] H[arrison]; accordingly he is seeking Poinsett's advice, as Maryland probably has her full share of appointments in the Navy; asks Poinsett to speak to the Secretary of the Navy [James K. Paulding] to obtain the appointment as a special favor or, if proper, to the President [Van Buren].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

397. 1840, Nov. 21. B. JAEGER, Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He takes the liberty of giving his opinions to Poinsett because of the latter's interest in the National Institute and desire to establish in it a room of natural history; a room containing several hundred animals, birds, reptiles, fish, and insects, would require a curator with a salary sufficient to permit him to devote his entire time to the job; such a curator ought to write immediately to French, German, Russian, and Italian naturalists to obtain zoological and botanical duplicates from their collections; he ought also to prepare objects of natural history of the United States in duplicate to fill the room at the Institute and to send the duplicates in exchange to his correspondents; minerals and samples of wood of the United States should be arranged according to their geographical location, so that the natural resources of a state would be obvious at a glance; he [Jaeger] suggests that the government of the United States aid the National Institute financially by providing the salary for the curator of the natural history section; he would have no objection to accepting this position himself, and if it is offered him, he will donate his own collection of several millions of specimens; later on one might expand the institution to include an astronomical observatory, a botanical garden with a menagery, etc.

A. L. S. In French. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

398. [1840?], Nov. 25. J. R. POINSETT. To H[ENRY] D. GILPIN

"I entrust to you my views on the subject of our money embarrassments and would like to talk them over with you before I show them to the President. They are thrown off in haste and may not be intelligible to any one but the author. I have in my head the details of the project which closes this paper and think it might be made to work beneficially."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25.5 cm. x 12.5 cm.

399. 1840, Dec. 3. JOHN D. EDWARDS, Columbia, S. C. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Asks Poinsett to do something for his brother-in-law, Major L. G. Capers; Colonel [W. C.] Preston says that if Capers should receive an appointment now, he could not be disturbed.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

400. 1840, Dec. 10. JAS. B. CAMPBELL, Charleston, [S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Upon his return from Columbia [S. C.] he received a letter from his brothers and friends soliciting his aid in behalf of Nelson H. Davis of Oxford, Massachusetts, who wishes to receive an appointment to West Point; he is well recommended, and Campbell's recollections of him in his childhood are favorable; Davis' father and grandfather were valued friends of Campbell's father, and he recalls the esteem and respect in which they were held; his grandfather, General Jonathan Davis, was a prominent politician for many years in Worcester County, Mass[achusetts]; he also acted as guardian for Campbell and his brothers and sisters after their father died; he hopes Poinsett can do something for young Davis.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

401. 1840, Dec. 14. JAS. B. CAMPBELL, [Charleston, S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

[L. G.] Capers believes that an appointment as consul at Havana [Cuba] would not be disturbed by Poinsett's successors; Mr. [Nicholas] Trist would in no case return under the new administration, and there is no reason why he should stand in the way of Capers' appointment; whatever aid Poinsett can give Capers will be appreciated by Capers' brother and his brother-in-law, [John D.] Edwards, who can both do Poinsett great service in South Carolina.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

402. 1840, Dec. 14. L. G. CAPERS, Charleston, [S. C.].
To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter of December 5, and thanks him for conferring with the President [Van Buren] on his behalf; he believes he will secure the appointment if his friends at Washington take advantage of the President's indecision concerning the Havana [Cuba] consulate; even granting the correctness of Poinsett's estimate of [Nicholas P.] Trist, that he has been unjustly persecuted, still it should be explained why he should hold a life estate in the Havana consulship; Trist has "realized a competency" during his eight years' incumbency, his denunciation by public opinion should indicate to him the propriety of a change; "a man in public life must earn the esteem and good will of his countrymen"; he [Capers] believes that he could fill the office of consul at Havana to the general satisfaction; if Trist resigns, and he is appointed, his friends think he ought to sail immediately for Havana [Cuba] and confer with Trist; the latter, even if he hangs on until the new administration comes in in March [1841], will then surely be recalled; Trist should therefore yield to him [Capers], having been assured that [William Henry] Harrison would retain Capers as Havana consul; asks Poinsett to let him know the decision at once; he is pleased that Poinsett is willing to succeed Colonel [W. C.] Preston as U. S. Senator; as soon as Preston has decided to resign, he will tell one of Poinsett's friends, who will then act to good purpose.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

403. 1840, Dec. 22. WM. KEMBLE, New York, [N. Y.].
To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

He encloses copy of a letter from Mr. [Alfred V.] Du Pont of Wilmington, [Del.], who is willing to furnish the refined saltpeter and deliver it at the arsenal in Frankfort [Frankford, Pa.?] or any point on navigable water north of the Chesapeake, at \$8.75 per hundred pounds; Du Pont imports the brimstone from France, packed in 1000-lb. casks; casks which have been painted with red lead have lasted 11 years in perfect condition, and Du Pont will pack the refined saltpeter in such casks; if \$30,000 is appropriated, 327,000 lb. refined saltpeter and 46,700 lb. of brimstone at 3¼ cents per 100 lb. can be had; if the [War] Department decides to make this purchase, the order is to be given direct to Mr. Du Pont at Wilmington, Delaware; this should be done soon as it is best to do the refining in the winter when business is less pressing; Captain [John] Erickson [Ericson] wants to know whether an appropriation will be made for the two steamers for harbor defense; the fate of the navigation of the

Hudson depends on the threatening rainfall; at the last account the Hudson was open to Newburg, [N. Y.]

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

404. 1840, Dec. 26. D. LEVY, Newmansville, [Fla.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Introduces Dr. E. K. White of Alachua County [Fla.], a gentleman of standing in Florida.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

405. [1840?] JOHN DE HORDYNSKI, [Fla.]. To [J. R. POINSETT].

Thanks Poinsett for the kindness he has shown him, "a miserable Pole"; he received on December 1, 1839, the release from military service which Poinsett sent him, with the condition that he procure a substitute; but at that time, "*Campania in Indianos exorata est*," and he and his companions were busy with that; now he is trying to find a substitute, but it is impossible in Florida; he offered money to several soldiers with no result; therefore he wants Poinsett to give him leave of absence for a month to go to New Orleans [La.] to see Dr. Luxembourg [Dr. Charles A. Luzenberg?], who knew his entire family in Europe, and who helped him in his search for a substitute.

A. L. S. In Latin. 2 pp. 24 cm. x 19 cm.

Endorsed in Poinsett's hand, "John D. Hordynski, Latin letter of a Pole in the Army."

406. [1840?] G[OUVERNEUR] KEMBLE. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Mr. Hepler recommends the bearer, Mr. Fischer, as having some useful inventions applicable to the Army and Navy services, which he hopes Poinsett will consider.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

407. [1840?] PETER B. BAUTAN, St. Augustine, Fla. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

The dispatch box should be soldered, and then fastened into a cask with screws between the bunghole and the top of the cask; the cask can then be filled with brandy, water, wine, vinegar, rum, etc.; there must be a number of similar casks, numbered first, second, etc.;

the one containing the dispatch box must not be marked as unusual in any way; suggests a code whereby the recipient will know which cask contains the box.

A. L. S. In French. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

408. [1840?] To [J. R. POINSETT]

In his "Eagle speech" on February 22 [1840?] at Columbus [Ohio], General [William Henry] Harrison praised Colonel [John] Miller of Mis[souri] for his gallantry at Fort Meigs [Ohio] against the British on the Miami [River] on May 5, 1813; he also claimed that no histories have done justice to Colonel Miller and his troops; but it is General Harrison's own fault, for he should have mentioned Colonel Miller's gallantry in his official report of May 13, 1813, to the Secretary of War [John Armstrong], and should have given the facts to the historians [Robert B.] McAfee and [Moses] Dawson,⁷ both of whom wrote under his supervision; now his account in the Eagle speech differs from that in the books of McAfee and Dawson; Colonel [George] Croghan, who has done the most to save the military reputation of Harrison, has also for many years suffered because of the false statements made by McAfee and Dawson, and has been deprived of the credit for the defense of Sandusky [Ohio]; it was due to no effort of Harrison's that Croghan finally received a medal from Congress in 1835 and his officer's sword as a reward for his gallantry at Sandusky; instead, he permitted false statements to be made, and now reverses himself in his speech; Harrison permitted Croghan to be blackballed in 1814, upon the resolution of Governor [George] Troup of Georgia; he could have prevented this by admitting that Croghan's disobedience and consequent victory at Sandusky saved Harrison from retreating and leaving the interior from Erie [Pa.] to the Wabash [River] open to the ravages of the Indians, and saved the boats and military stores at Cleveland [Ohio] from being destroyed, and Commodore [Oliver H.] Perry's fleet at Erie from falling into the enemy's hands; it is believed that recently there was some correspondence between Harrison and Croghan, in which the latter charged the former with misrepresentation of his services; this correspondence, if it took place, should be presented to the public by Harrison; to clear his own name in the matter, Croghan would readily agree to the publication of the letters.

Letter, unsigned. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Endorsed in Poinsett's hand, "Colonel Croghan."

⁷ See Robert B. McAfee, *History of the Late War in the Western Country* (Bowling Green, O., 1919); Moses Dawson, *A Historical Narrative of the Civil and Military Services of Major General William H. Harrison* (Cincinnati, O., 1824).

409. [1840?] [J. R. POINSETT]

Mr. [Martin] V[an] B[uren] has always followed the principle of the great statesmen of Virginia, who in the Declaration of Independence, in the formation of the government, and its subsequent administration, guarded against tyranny by withholding from the federal government authority to oppress any state or individual; they believed consolidation would sacrifice the weak to the strong; Southern statesmen have used the principle of sovereignty as a protection against the Northern majority to preserve the independence of the states, the liberty of the citizen and the safety of the Union; Van Buren supported the administrations of [Thomas] Jefferson, [James] Madison, and [James] Monroe; when he entered the national councils, he supported [William H.] Crawford, who followed the Virginia school; from 1825 to 1836 he helped General [Andrew] Jackson to reestablish the Republican faith so badly shaken by the election and policy of the second Adams [John Q. Adams]; during his own administration he has struggled strenuously against the encroaching power of federalism; he supported General Jackson's policy of removing Indians from Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida beyond the confines of the Union, a policy which in spite of its vital importance to the South was carried by only a few votes in the House of Representatives; the opposition sent agents to the Cherokees to arouse their resistance against the measure; they encouraged John Ross in his defiance; the power of the Supreme Court was invoked to put down state law and sustain the Indians; Van Buren supported Jackson throughout this struggle, and against great opposition; on the question of the veto of the Internal Improvements System, Jackson and Van Buren suffered the full impact of Northern federalism; [Henry] Clay has driven the entering wedge into making this system a reality; the system, which was to cost about \$100,000,000, was pushed through Congress by log rolling; the high tariff was joined to this bill, and added to the dangers of a veto; Mr. Van Buren supported General Jackson's veto, at the risk of alienating his own state [New York], which followed the New England policy of protecting manufactures by high tariffs; the veto of the National Bank was the strongest blow to federalism, for the Bank was effectively adapted to subjecting weaker sections of the country to the stronger; through "this great monied corporation located in a Northern city and owned and swayed by foreign capitalists with power to depress at will the staples of Southern labor, the South was as absolutely colonized and taxed by the capital of England as if it had remained one of its dependencies . . . This yoke of bondage Mr. Van Buren next to General Jackson contributed more than any man living to break"; Mr. Van Buren anticipated General Jackson in the policy of reducing tariffs, and through

his efforts the tariff has been reduced to a simple revenue tax, and the taxpayers have been saved millions of dollars: the most serious attack on the South has been made in connection with the abolition movement; its labor system has been endangered by attack from abroad as well as at home; Mr. Van Buren has given his personal and official influence to the opposition to abolitionist activity; Poinsett appeals to the South not to abandon Van Buren, who upholds the principles dear to the South.

A. Df. 10 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

410. [1840?] J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]. To H[ENRY] D. GILPIN, [Washington, D. C.]

"The small party which usually meets the President [Van Buren] will assemble at our house this evening—will you do us the favor to join them."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20 cm. x 12.5 cm.

411. 1841, Jan. 18. J. MURRAY, Annapolis, [Md.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He recently heard from Major [Samuel] Cooper, that a letter to the President from the Governor of Maryland recommending his [Murray's] son, Henry, for a warrant in the Navy, would aid his cause; inasmuch as the Governor had already violated rules by previously recommending him, unsuccessfully, for an appointment, he is unable to request another favor; he believes Poinsett's recommendation would satisfy the President.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

412. 1841, Jan. 21. JO[H]N PICKERING, Boston, [Mass.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Judge [John] Davis of the District Court of Massachusetts will resign after March 4; wants Poinsett to aid him in his application for the position by giving the Senators from South Carolina some knowledge of him; he has studied throughout his life civil, foreign, and international laws, which are constantly used in admiralty courts; asks Poinsett to aid him with the Senators from other states, or with officers of the Army, who have access to General [William Henry] H[arrison] and his counsellors; he [Pickering] has been out of politics too long to be recollected by politicians of any party, but his claim is as strong as that of the generality of professional men.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

413. 1841, Jan. 25. ROBT. RAYMOND REID, Tallahassee, [Fla.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

A paymaster's position will probably soon be vacated; asks the appointment for General John Graham.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

414. 1841, Jan. 31. [COMMODORE] J[ESSE] D. ELLIOT, Carlisle, [Pa.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges his letter of December 17 and the printed copy of Poinsett's annual report to Congress; he agrees with Poinsett's plans for defense of the maritime frontier; with the extension of the plan to include the [Great] Lakes, United States could defy England; "resort must soon be had to something more potent than the pen"; Poinsett should check up on the coastal defenses, as his successors in the War Department will have cause to criticize him for certain poorly defended places; he regrets that [Martin] Van Buren is leaving him [Elliott] in his present situation, for he can hope for nothing from the coming administration with [Daniel] Webster at its head; he [Elliott] can clear himself of two of the charges against him, namely, placing the figure-head of General [Andrew] Jackson on the bow of the *Constitution*, and bringing the animals home from the Mediterranean; Poinsett was present at the docking of the *Constitution* at Boston [Mass.] on which occasion Elliott was solicited by many persons to have the figure-head put on; he communicated with Colonel Earle, who replied that General [Andrew] Jackson considered it the highest compliment which could be paid him; there was some excitement at the time concerning the propriety of removing the deposits from the United States Bank; after the figure was selected, he wrote for instructions and received a letter from Mr. [Levi] Woodbury [Secretary of the Navy] advising him not to yield the point; he also heard from the [Board of Naval] Commissioners giving him permission to place the President's figure-head upon the bow of the *Constitution*, but suggesting that it was more appropriate for one of the ships of the line; six months before he came home he wrote to Mr. [Mahlon] Dickerson that he intended to bring the animals in the *Constitution*; that letter is part of the record of the court-martial; he wrote to Mr. [Martin] Van Buren at the same time to the same effect but as it has been made a matter of political capital he kept it to himself; if his sentence is continued, he would like with the government's consent to spend the time fighting for France in the event of a war between France and England; he knows navy officers of rank in the French navy; he declined a presentation to the French king [Louis Philippe] suggested by [General Simon] Bernard when he was last in Paris; asks Poinsett's

advice about joining the French navy; General [William Henry] Harrison will have the printed record of his trial and correspondence with Mr. [James K.] Paulding.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

415. 1841, Feb. 3. PIERCE M. BUTLER, New Orleans, [La.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, D. C.

For the past six weeks he has been up the Red River, where he has a small planting interest, obtaining information of the Trading Company of Chichuahua [Chihuahua, Mexico]; \$60,000 worth of stock has been subscribed; he would like to have an additional \$40,000 subscribed in N[ew] Y[or]k or Philadelphia [Pa.]; wants Poinsett to buy \$5,000 or \$10,000 interest in the concern; he expects to make 100 percent net profit; only 20 percent of amount subscribed must be advanced; with the names already on his subscription list, he believes he can raise the necessary amount from the banks either in N[ew] Y[or]k or Charleston [S. C.] by paying it back in bullion plus legal interest; asks Poinsett to speak about the matter with Mr. [Ambrose H.] Seiver and Mr. [Edward] Cross of Arkansas; he [Butler] expects to be in Columbia, S. C., by February 15.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

416. 1841, Feb. 9. J. R. POINSETT and J[AMES] K. PAULDING, Directors, National Institute, Washington, [D. C.]. To various Congressmen.

The National Institute for the Promotion of Science and the Useful Arts in Washington wants specimens of the natural products of every part of the United States; they want Congressmen to bring specimens of mineral and vegetable products of their respective districts to Washington for display in the museum; such specimens will be described by the scientific members of the Institution.

Cy. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

417. 1841, Feb. 19. CHAS. HOSMER, Recording Secretary, Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, [Conn.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]

Asks for copies of Poinsett's address before the National Institute, to be deposited in the archives of the Connecticut Historical Society; for the same purpose he wishes to have copies of Poinsett's other publications, or of publications made under Poinsett's control; the record of Poinsett's long-continued efforts to benefit the United States should be preserved.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

418. 1841. M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Washington, [D. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

He has received Poinsett's resignation of the office of Secretary of War to take effect after March 3; he has appreciated Poinsett's zeal, ability, and success in executing a difficult and responsible public trust; thanks him for the valuable assistance he has rendered.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

419. 1841, Mar. 3. S[AMUEL] COOPER, *et al.*, War Department, [Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Washington, D. C.]

Cooper, the Assistant Adjutant General in the War Office, and the clerks in the office, express their gratitude for, and appreciation of, Poinsett's treatment of them during his administration of the War Department; they wish him prosperity, health, and happiness in the future.

Signed by S. Cooper, John T. Cochrane, chief clerk, J. H. Offley, Nathan Rice, John Potts, Charles Calvert, and John D. McPherson, clerks. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

420. 1841, Mar. 11. CHRISTOPHER HUGHES, [U. S. Chargé d'Affaires], Stockholm, [Sweden]. To J. R. POINSETT

Acknowledges Poinsett's last official letter of January 15, 1841, and the copy of the letter of credit for £400 on Messrs. Rothschilds, London [Eng.]; the artillery acquisitions made by Major [Rufus L.] Baker and his colleagues⁸ have been paid for; the receipted account of General Peyson, President of the Royal College of War, will be sent; Hughes is writing this letter so that Poinsett may know the conclusion of the artillery business which he began; he quotes from a letter he wrote to his brother in Baltimore [Md.] on March 11, 1841, in which he gives Poinsett high praise; he hopes that Poinsett's successor may be made aware of the superiority of Swedish iron guns over all others; money should be voted to pay for batteries to be made in Sweden, and several artillery officers from the United States Army should be sent there to superintend the work; almost every European nation has followed this policy; Majors [Rufus L.] Baker and [Benjamin] Huger commanded the respect and esteem of every one in Sweden; either of them could return to Sweden to superintend the manufacture of guns; it is not safe to try to make the

⁸ Major Rufus L. Baker, Capt. A. Mordecai, Capt. Benjamin Huger, and Major William Wade were sent as a commission to Europe to study ordnance. See J. Fred Rippey, *Joel R. Poinsett*, 173-174.

guns in the United States; Baron [Martin] Wahrendorff at Aker Forge has discovered a remedy to prevent all windage; it is surrounding the iron cannon ball with a thin coat of lead; sends his regards to Mrs. Poinsett and to Mr. and Mrs. Pringle.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

421. 1841, Apr. 15. [MAJOR] J[AMES] D. GRAHAM, [Topographical Engineers, U. S. Army], Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To COLONEL J[OHN] J. ABERT, Chief Topographical Engineer, Washington, D. C.

He was unable to see Mr. Poinsett before he left Washington [D. C.] and he fears he will not return from New York [N. Y.] in time to see him; requests Abert to "let him [Poinsett] know that I will take very great pleasure in conforming to his wishes in reference to the subject you alluded to in conversation a few days ago, whatever position you may think the young gentleman in question [James Williams] capable of filling. I will endeavour to give to him in accordance with Mr. Poinsett's wishes, who leaves us all . . . deeply his debtors for what he did for the advancement of the interest and standing of the army. . . ."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

422. 1841, Apr. 17. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, New York, [N. Y.]

They have been detained in Washington by bad weather, but expect to leave for Charleston [S. C.] soon; Colonel [John J.] Abert has just heard from Major [James D.] Graham, who consents to take James Williams on the survey; Kemble is to ascertain what Williams is fit for and what he wishes to do, and is to impress Williams with the fact that he is entirely dependent upon his own exertions, and must gain a livelihood by manual labor if no other way is possible for him; the employment under Graham will be temporary; Poinsett will be glad if Kemble can use him [Williams] at his foundry; Poinsett will write both to Graham and to Williams; he encloses an old letter from his Paris [France] wine merchant with the latter's address; the collection of the Exploring Expedition, now being arranged, will be worth a trip to Washington to see; Mrs. Poinsett is grateful to Kemble for having written to her from Baltimore [Md.]; the Poinsetts wish to be remembered to Kemble's sisters and to [James K.] Paulding; Mr. [John Q.] Adams has promised to introduce and support Poinsett's bills in the House.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

423. 1841, Apr. 29. [COL.] JOHN H. SHERBURNE, Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

An article on Cherokee mediation signed by "William Penn" appears in the *Intelligencer* of April 29, 1841; this article was doubtless written with the knowledge and perhaps the assistance of [John] Ross; Poinsett may recognize the writer of the article, who says he had a conversation with him on the subject while mediation was in progress in Florida; asks Poinsett to inform him [Sherburne] confidentially of the author's identity; the article favors Ross, and untruly represents the Cherokees as having received unkind treatment; the expenses of the Cherokee mediators were paid for their trip to Washington [D. C.]; it is rumored that Mr. [William C.] Preston wrote the President [John Tyler] a letter against proscription, that he [Preston] will return to Europe and that Poinsett will be returned to the Senate; he [Sherburne] received "a letter from Governor [Levi] Woodbury yesterday giving me an account of his entrance into Portsmouth [N. H.] &c.—after an absence of ten years—quite a cavalcade of democrats, good & true, & firm as the Granite hills of New Hampshire."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

424. 1841, May 6. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.]. To [COL. JOHN H. SHERBURNE, Washington, D. C.]

Acknowledges his letter of April 29; he cannot "divine the author of the fable published in the *Intelligencer*"; he never held such a conversation with anyone; ". . . No person that knows me will believe that I would have sanctioned such a silly subterfuge as is attributed to me in that paper, you were the only person with whom I communicated on the subject at the period the measure was adopted and I understood from you that the proffer of mediation as stated in Mr. [John] Ross's address came from the Cherokees—the concluding part of the statement is equally incorrect."

A. Df. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

425. 1841, May 23. A. G. MAGRATH, *et al.*, Charleston, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.]

The undersigned constitute a committee of the Democratic Party; they inform him that a general meeting of the party is to be held at the New Theatre on Thursday at 7:30 P.M.; they ask him to address that meeting.

Signed by A. G. Magrath, John Phillips, R. Wotherspoon, Alex McDonald, Jas. B. Campbell. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

426. 1841, May 24. [J. R. POINSETT], Charleston, [S. C.]. To [A. G. MAGRATH, *et al.*, Charleston, S. C.]

Acknowledges their letter inviting him to address a general meeting of the Democratic Party in Charleston; he had previously arranged to go on Thursday to Greenville [S. C.] and therefore cannot accept their invitation; if he were "not fully satisfied that the Democracy of Charleston required no exhortations from me to remain steadfast inconvenience would not have deterred me from remaining to add my efforts to those of the distinguished advocates of the right of the states and of the people . . ."

A. Df. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

427. 1841, June 4. J. R. POINSETT, Greenville C[our]t H[ou]se, [S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEU]R KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]

He is sorry to hear Kemble's account of young [James] Williams, to whom Poinsett has given as good an education as his mind and application warranted; he [Williams] is now probably with Major [James D.] Graham on his boundary survey; he [Poinsett] has resumed the management of his farm; "Julius [Pringle] and his wife and the darling granddaughter are with us"; the National Institute is flourishing; he [Poinsett] will lend aid if required, but he intends to make his future comfort and enjoyment independent of political or scientific promotion; South Carolina is strong for Democracy; Mrs. Poinsett wishes to know about his sister's health.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

428. 1841, June 5. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEU]R KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]

Acknowledges his letter of May 26 telling them of his sister's death; Mrs. Poinsett feels the loss deeply; Poinsett is eager for political news; the President's [John Tyler's] message and the choice of speaker of the House have not yet reached his remote corner; Brig[adie]r Waddy Thompson is studying Spanish and public law in preparation for his mission [to Mexico]; he [Poinsett] wrote to Col. [William] Drayton and received a satisfactory reply, "the Director acknowledging the understanding communicated to Mrs. [John] Cadwallader"; before leaving Charleston [S. C.] he [Poinsett] made an arrangement with the bank which gives him a year to sell and to realize money to pay his debts; his agent "has played the devil with the finest property of any private gentleman in Carolina; but I hope to remedy everything and reserve something; my wife's property is untouched and safe, but has been badly managed in my

absence"; invites Kemble to visit them; the grape vines and [A. J.] Downing's fruit trees are flourishing, and also the rice fields; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards to Kemble and to Mr. and Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

429. 1841, June 26. W. C. DUFFIELD, San Augustine, Texas.

Notarized statement: On December 27, 1837, he embarked on the steamer *Black Hawk* at Natchez [Miss.] for Natchitoches [La.]; he was informed by the house of Wilson [commission merchants] that the *Black Hawk* was a good boat; on the way the captain told him that the steamer *Davy Crockett* would leave Natchez the next morning, and that her captain had boasted that he could beat the *Black Hawk* to Natchitoches; the captain of the *Black Hawk* declared that he couldn't; between 11 p.m. and midnight, when they were forty miles below Natchez, the boilers exploded; there were about 100 passengers on board, some of whom had retired for the night; right after the explosion, he saw Major [Lewis G.] De Russy run to the boiler deck; a large quantity of specie was scattered about the boat, especially on the cabin floor; the surviving officers of the boat were inefficient, being paralyzed with panic; the presence of mind and intrepid conduct of Major De Russy contributed much to the saving of life and property on the boat; he was more anxious about the money of the government than he was about his own person and property; the *Black Hawk* was towed to a sandbar by the steamer *Commerce*; he observed Major De Russy examining the boxes of specie and looking for that which had been blown throughout the boat; the amount lost was between \$8,000 and \$10,000; Mr. McIlvain of Louisville, Kentucky, informed Duffield that the captain of the *Black Hawk* had explained the cause of the explosion; some boys hired to clean out the boilers had left a broom in the boiler which had clogged up a pipe, and the pump was out of repair.

Cy. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

430. 1841, June 29. [MAJOR] LEWIS G. DE RUSSY, Natchitoches, [La.]. To GENERAL N[ATHAN] TOWSON, [Paymaster General, United States Army]

He has procured some additional evidence in connection with the loss of public funds in 1837 [on the steamer *Black Hawk*]; Mr. [J. R.] Poinsett has assured him that he would never be charged with the matter; encloses papers relating to the case; wants Towson to add to these his [De Russy's] own statements, and those of the late Major

Hyde, and present them all to the Secretary of War [John Bell] with the request that they be preserved for his future use in case of need.

Cy. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosures missing.

431. 1841, July 12. [COL.] J[OHN] J. ABERT, [National Institute, Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.]

Acknowledges his letter of June 25; he gave the enclosure for Mr. [David B.] Warden to Mr. [Francis] Markoe, [Jr.], to be forwarded; the necessary instructions about forwarding the minerals have been given; one of the Smithsonian curiosities has been received [by the National Institute] from Mr. [George W.] Erving; it has lately been in the custom house at New York, [N. Y.]; it has been discovered that the basement rooms of the patent office are unfit for the collections deposited there because of dampness; the matter will be brought to the attention of the Society [for the Promotion of Science]; if they are not soon moved, all of the botanical and zoological specimens will be destroyed; he has received the concluding series of [Major William] Turnbull's reports about the Potomac aqueduct; an interesting report has come in from [Major Stephen H.] Long about the Red River raft country; if the Senate orders it published, he will send Poinsett a copy; Long's advice is to do the work by contract; advises Poinsett to get a copy of Liebig's *Chemistry of Agriculture*, of which an American edition has been published by Professor [John W.] Webster; [Joseph N.] Nicollet is at work perfecting his map, his health having improved of late; General [Alexander] Macomb died recently; [Gen. Winfield] Scott has his place [as Commander-in-Chief of the Army], and it is rumored that Jessup [Thomas S. Jesup?] is to be the Brigadier.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

432. 1841, July 20. [GENERAL] N[ATHAN] TOWSON, Paymaster General, United States Army [Washington, D. C.]. To T. HARTLY CRAWFORD, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, [D. C.]

Paymaster Lewis G. De Russy has sent the enclosed papers containing evidence relating to the loss of some funds by the blowing up of the steamer *Black Hawk*; De Russy wants these papers laid before the Secretary of War [John Bell] to establish the fact that the loss could not be foreseen or prevented, and that no exertion was omitted to save the public money; it is a miracle that a larger sum was not lost; he [Towson] cannot find Major Hyde's and De Russy's

statements, which the letter said were on file in Towson's office; they are probably in the Indian Department.

Cy. 2 pp. 20 cm. x 25 cm.

Enclosures missing.

433. 1841, July. [GEN.] N[ATHAN] TOWSON, Paymaster General, United States Army, Washington, [D. C.]. To T. HARTLY CRAWFORD, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, [Washington, D. C.]

Duplicate copy of the above letter.

Cy. 2 pp. 20 cm. x 25 cm.

Enclosures missing.

434. 1841, July 26. J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, [S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He is grateful for Kemble's kindness to young [James] Williams; "Your Brother William will do me the favor to place \$25 to your credit"; wants to know if Williams can be placed in a store or dry goods establishment when the survey is over—"I am afraid he cannot be made anything of, but am anxious that he should find some easy & creditable means of support"; Philadelphia [Pa.] would be a better place for him than New York [N. Y.]; it appears that President [John] Tyler will follow his States' Rights friends in Congress; [Thomas W.] Gilmer, [Robert M.] Hunter, and [Henry A.] Wise are of his council; [Daniel] Webster will probably unite with him as he has nothing to hope for from the West and must depend upon the Jeffersonian Democrats for promotion; but he [Poinsett] wants to avoid politics—"a plague on both their houses"; he is more interested in farming; Mr. [Martin] Van Buren's son has been married, and his chance of happiness is "better with a sensible person however homely than with the prettiest girl in the state that might aid & abet him in extravaganzas"; he [Poinsett] is sending the report of the last board of visitors of the Academy [of Fine Arts in Charleston?]; requests price of bone crusher; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards to Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott, and hopes her last letter to Kemble's sister reached her in time; it was directed to Kemble's brother William; Julius [Pringle] and his family are absent on a trip to the mountains.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20 cm. x 25 cm.

435. 1841, Aug. 17. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Encloses a drawing of a bone crusher copied from [John] Loudon's work; he believes he can build one himself to save the

expense, which the paucity of bones about Greenville [S. C.] does not warrant; [Gen. William J.] Worth is likely to succeed; "The Indians are to be negotiated not driven out of Florida by the bayonet"; nothing is known of the President's [John Tyler's] resolve on the bank bill; he [Poinsett] hopes [Henry] Clay will not bully the President as [Samuel L.] Southard did; the Poinsetts are expecting Julius Pringle and his family to return after their trip to the mountains; Mrs. Poinsett is impatient to see her granddaughter.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20 cm. x 25 cm.

436. 1841, Sept. 16. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

His plan for a bone crusher is too expensive and he will follow Kemble's advice to procure a pestle and mortar, which he can get from the Spartansburg [S. C.] foundry; he is anxious to know the results of the "breaking up" at Washington [D. C.]; he is sorry Kemble has been unable to visit Mr. [Martin] Van Buren because of "poor little Jim's" illness; General Waddy Thompson, Poinsett's neighbor, says the Whigs will get rid of John Tyler and make a successful rally; Thompson's account of the formation of the cabinet is amusing, and he attributes his own [Thompson's] failure to be included to the evil influence of Mr. [Henry A.] Wise, who wanted to be avenged for Thompson's opposition to the appointment of Mr. [John?] Sergeant to the Treasury; he [Poinsett] has sent to William [Kemble] for barley and wheat; he also wants some fruit trees from Mr. J. A. Downing, and also some fir, poplar and mountain ash trees; they should be sent in the autumn; Mrs. Poinsett joins him in sending kind regards to all the family at Cold Spring; the trees are to be sent through Messrs. Robertson & Thurston, Charleston [S. C.].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

437. 1841, Oct. 2. J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Mr. Smith of Washington [D. C.] has demanded a considerable payment on Poinsett's note, due the Bank of the United States; the note is to be made payable in Philadelphia [Pa.]; as he can make no payment until his crops have been marketed, asks Kemble's assistance; Colonel [William] Drayton's letter, written in terms suggested by Mr. [John] Cadwalader, led him to expect that he would not be pressed for payment; one payment was made through Kemble's brother William; a loan of \$5,000 or \$6,000 in New York would pay the Bank debt, and Poinsett could repay the loan in two years; the debt presses upon him, as his agent in Charleston [S. C.]

misapplied the \$9,000; it is a total loss, as he has failed; the government will lose something by the bank, but the whole amount would have been lost had it not been for the arrangement made by the War Department in 1840; he believes Mr. [Albert M.] Lea will be a better Secretary [of War] than Mr. [John] Bell, but "I do not expect harmony or wisdom from such a cabinet under such a chief"; [Benjamin C.] Howard remarked that Poinsett was lucky in having a successor like Bell, but [Martin] Van Buren is even luckier in respect to his successor; "Whatever right measures Mr. [John] Tyler adopts, the manner of doing it destroys the merit altogether; the disclosures of the ex-Ministers however improper and disgraceful to them, place his conduct in an unenviable light"; Van Buren's conduct in contrast was open and dignified; Van Buren's opponents have "compromised the interests to honor of the Country by placing them in such imbecile hands"; invites Kemble to visit them in Greenville; Julius Pringle has returned with his family from the trip to the mountains.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

438. 1841, Nov. 20. H[ENRY] D. GILPIN, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

Acknowledges his letter with the enclosed certificate relative to the claims of Messrs. Coxe and Elkins; he [Gilpin] will be in Washington in December to attend to these claims, and would like to meet Poinsett then if possible; he thought Poinsett would visit Washington during the winter to look after the National Institution, where he hears the collections have been very well arranged; he believes the Smithsonian Fund can be united with the National Institution through Poinsett's influence and exertions; the Democrats in his section have had continued success; the defeat of the Democrats in 1840 may have a good result in the end, for it is serving to expose the falsehood and false pretensions of the Federalists; he believes Mr. [Martin] Van Buren will be offered the nomination for the next term; if he accepts the nomination he will surely be elected; he has no serious rival in the Democratic Party; Mr. [Andrew] Stevenson is here, and from what he says, the ultimate result of affairs with England will not be pacific; English determination is the chief cause of trouble; Mrs. Gilpin sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

439. 1841, Nov. 24. J. R. POINSETT, Columbia, [S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

His agent in Charleston [S. C.] can let him have \$4,000; he [Poinsett] is on his way there now, but will not arrive until the latter

part of the week, so wants Kemble to act as he thinks most expedient; if there is danger of United States Bank notes rising he must act promptly; South Carolina legislature is in session at Columbia, and is all right except for an intrigue to nominate Mr. [John C.] Calhoun; it is hoped that some of the Western states, perhaps Ohio, will first move in his favor; it is rumored "that Mr. [Thomas H.] Benton should have said that he had become aware Mr. [Martin] Van Buren was out of the question, but he knew he himself had no chance and therefore was prepared to acquiesce in the nomination of any other person. It moves my ire to witness these movements—I have said generally that all nominations were at this moment premature and so I think; but I should especially depreciate that for a Southern man—after deserting the Democracy of the North at its utmost need, it would ill become us to start a candidate of our own"; Mrs. Poinsett is well and sends condolences for his accident; they cannot accept Kemble's invitation now for after this trip to Charleston he has to visit their rice plantation; he is counting on Kemble or his brother [William] to transact his business.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

440. 1841, Nov. 28. GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Charleston, S. C.]

Since his last letter, he has visited [Martin] Van Buren and found him in excellent health, living like a country gentleman; Van Buren was pleased by the recent defeats of the Whigs, but maintains his philosophical calm which helped him in his recent defeat; they talked much about Poinsett and [James K.] Paulding; Van Buren wants to see them both; he inquired especially about Poinsett's business with the United States Bank; Kemble believes he will again be President, for he met many Democrats on his way to Washington [D. C.] and back, all of whom mentioned Van Buren as a possibility; Van Buren himself expressed no desire for re-election; Kemble visited the War Department while in Washington; everybody was very friendly, and asked after Poinsett; [John T.] Cochrane is in delicate health; Mr. [John C.] Spencer [Secretary of War] spoke of Poinsett's achievements as Secretary of War during the preceding administration and "half won me by the frankness of his acknowledgements—he is decidedly a man of talents"; Mr. [John] Bell had not got half through his 500 appeals in the Indian Bureau; Spencer settled the rest by deciding to re-open no case that had been pre-judged by his predecessors; Spencer and [Abel P.] Upshur [Secretary of the Navy] are the government *de facto*, and rule everything; Spencer has the stronger mind but divides power with Upshur because the latter has the President's [John Tyler's] confidence; "[Daniel] Webster you know is a lazy man, and nothing without his

brief, so they give him the time, and he blows the horn"; Elliot, formerly of the pension office, who is looking for a position with Spencer, asked Kemble about Poinsett's place of a fiscal agent; Kemble expects the President [John Tyler] will recommend a bank of issue under the guarantee of the government with power to deal in exchanges upon deposit of government securities or gold and silver; he was astonished by the progress of the National Institute; "I have seen a few shells, and a basket of minerals carried to the corner under [Colonel Joseph C.] Totten's office, from the Topographical Bureau. I now see a museum of natural curiosities which will well compare with any in the world"; Dr. King, the curator, said it would take five years to arrange the specimens already in his possession; whole cabinets have been presented, but the Institute needs funds and the birds are without eyes because there is no money to purchase glass beads; there are some dissensions among the members, and Poinsett's presence in Washington is needed to settle matters and to organize a plan to unite the Institute with the Smithsonian bequest; if this is impossible, Congress should appropriate the surplus revenues of the Patent Office to the use of the Institute; the Institute "will be remembered by the good and great when . . . the ephemeral lustre of a passing president shall have died away . . ."; Poinsett's identification with the National Institute will be more glorious than the presidency itself.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

441. 1841, Dec. 7. M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Lindenwald, [Columbia Co., N. Y.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, n. p.

He has failed to answer Poinsett's several letters because he has been very busy doing nothing; he has been having improvements made on his place; he wants the Poinsetts to visit him in the summer; Angelica [Mrs. Abraham Van Buren] is very happy at Lindenwald—"with double sashes, etc., she experiences no inconvenience from color"; the Federalists are depressed because their overthrow in New York State is final; Mr. [Silas] Wright visited Van Buren on his way to Washington, [D. C.], and wants to have Poinsett's suggestions in regard to the Indian treaties made by [James D.] Doty; Wright agrees with Poinsett, and wants his observations in order to convince others more easily; what Poinsett says "in regard to our friend Mr. [John C.] C[alhoun] is not in keeping with remarks made by him before leaving Washington [D. C.], which were . . . of a directly opposite character. But he is like the rest of us liable to change his views, and has an indubitable right to do so . . . ; Mr. [Henry] Clay does not resign and will not be able to keep his hands off of [Daniel] Webster, who, poor fellow, appears to be in all respects on his last legs"; Mr. [John] Tyler can make no recommenda-

tion to Congress in respect to a fiscal agent which will not recognize and sanction the principles of the independent treasury; such a recommendation carried out by Congress would leave nothing to apprehend; Angelica and the Major [Major and Mrs. Abraham Van Buren] are going with Van Buren to visit Colonel [Richard] Singleton after February 10; Van Buren will take that occasion to visit General [Andrew] Jackson; they will also see the Poinsetts; Angelica and the Major wish to be remembered to the Poinsetts, Mr. and Mrs. [Julius] Pringle and to Van Buren's goddaughter.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

442. [1841?] [J. R. POINSETT]

Notes on the cost of removing Cherokee Indians [from Georgia], and on the negotiations between [John] Ross and General [Winfield] Scott in the matter; the original estimate of the cost was \$30.00 a head, and on this basis the law of June 12, 1838, appropriating \$1,047,067.00 was passed; the Emigrating Company offered to remove them for \$32.00 a head; the treaty party offered Ross to remove themselves at \$40.00 a head, and they were removed by their own agent John A. Bell for \$61.79 under the same conditions as the parties removed by Ross; General [Winfield] Scott's contract with Ross was at \$65.88 a head; Scott and the War Department considered this exorbitant, but it was agreed to avoid violence; the profit accruing to the contractors was believed to be \$150,000; one of them sold his share, one-seventh, for \$15,000; the contractors received \$776,398.98, the amount of their contract at \$65.88 a head; they claimed an additional \$581,346.82, which, rejected by the chief officer of the Indian Bureau, by the Secretary, Poinsett, and by President [Martin] Van Buren, was allowed and paid by the Secretary [John] Bell; the cost of emigrating the Cherokees was therefore \$103.25 per head.

A. D. 2 pp. 19.5 cm. x 19 cm.

443. [1841?] Jo[H]N T. COCHRANE, [War Department, Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT

Encloses papers [relating to the removal of the Indians from Georgia] which he had difficulty in locating since they had been removed from their proper places during the settlement of [John] Ross' claim; he will call for the papers when Poinsett is finished with them; he had to get Mr. [John C.] Spencer's permission to withdraw them from the Indian office and the auditor's office.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5 cm. x 25 cm.

On the outside is a memorandum in Poinsett's hand. *See next entry.* Enclosures missing.

444. [1841?] [J. R. POINSETT]

"The estimate for Cherokee emigration on which the law of June 12, 1838, was based appropriating \$1,047,067 for the Cherokees was \$30 a head. Contractors received from Lt. Page \$776,-398.98 amt. at \$65.88 per head. They subsequently claimed and received from Mr. [John] Bell when Secretary of War \$581,364.88 being at the rate of \$103.25 per head. The estimate presented to General [Winfield] Scott presumed that horse wagons were to be employed & their return was taken into acct. Oxen were employed and the wagons never did return—being the property of the Cherokees. The calculation was made by the Cherokees. They stated that so many wagons, horses and attendants would be required for the transportation & so many rations for the support of the Indians, all which would cost so much & therefore they ought to receive the high price they demanded. Although General [Winfield] Scott considered the estimate unreasonable & exorbitant he agreed to give the sum required for each. The estimate formed no part of the contract. The contractors bound themselves to remove people at the high rate of \$65.88 each person—which amount was paid them.

"President V[an] B[uren] ordered an enquiry whether the sums of \$92,781 & \$1,625.18 might not be allowed (expenses of delays occasioned by [illegible word] reasons); but rejected the rest of the claim amounting to \$486,989.50. The delay complained of & for which the contractors desired payment took place at the instance of the Cherokee contractors themselves & memorials [i.e., petitions] of Lewis Ross, [Jesse] Bushyhead, &c. It was an indulgence to the Cherokees for which the U[nited] S[tates] ought not to pay. It was calculated from the actual cost of the Ration that the Contractors made a profit of \$150,000 & it is known that Gordon who was interested with L[ewis] Ross sold that interest, one-seventh, for \$15,000. Instead of \$65.88 for which Mr. [John] Ross and his friends agreed to remove each Cherokee he has been allowed a fraction over \$103.25 while the treaty party under their own agent John A. Bell with Lt. Deas as disbursing agent, at the same time under the same circumstances & having the same improved Rations the same facilities of transportation were removed at less than \$61.70 per head.

"The contractors estimated for horse teams & employed oxen for the return of the wagons & they never did return. The treaty party offered to remove themselves for \$40 a head which [John] Ross refused to allow them.

"Mr. [Alfred] Iverson certifies that [J. C.] Watson & Co. offered to remove these Cherokees at \$32 a head, travel not to exceed 12 miles a day" [Manuscript here ends abruptly].

A. D. 3 pp. 20.5 cm. x 25 cm.

Written on outside of John T. Cochrane's letter to Poinsett.
See preceding entry.

445. [1837-1841?] [J. R. POINSETT]

Pencil notes on roads and rivers leading to Western frontier.
 A. D. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

446. 1842, Jan. 12. J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.
 To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Kemble will have heard from his brother William of the satisfactory termination of his [Poinsett's] financial affairs; Kemble is to tell Mr. [Martin] Van Buren of Poinsett's relief in this matter; he [Poinsett] is grateful to both Kemble and his brother; he has just written to William [Kemble] about a steam engine as motive power for a threshing mill; the water power depends on the tide, and so is unreliable; if Kemble goes to Washington [D. C.], he is to examine Emmon's patent rice threshing mill, though he believes a better one could be contrived; he was pleased with Kemble's account of the National Institute and would go to Washington if his private affairs did not demand his presence at home; Mrs. Poinsett is well, and is anticipating Mr. [Martin] Van Buren's promised visit; she sends regards to Kemble and to Mr. and Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

447. 1842, Jan. 28. SILAS WRIGHT, JR., Washington, [D. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Encloses a letter from Dr. Allen; Congress moves so slowly that it is doubtful whether anything will be accomplished in this session; the Treasury is empty and no warrants have been drawn upon it for several days; Congressmen can get no money to pay their board bills, yet the appropriations are made; a loan of six and a half millions has been authorized, but "Uncle Sam's credit will not bring the money"; the repudiated system of treasury notes must be resorted to, but Congress cannot find time to take up the bill; the feeling between [Henry] Clay and [John] Tyler is bitter, and is rapidly extending to their respective friends, but it is likely they will soon agree on some fiscal measure; Mr. [Martin] Van Buren is in fine health, and happy at his home at Kinderhook [N. Y.]; the Major [Abraham Van Buren], his wife [Angelica] and boy, and the Doctor are with him; Mr. [Gouverneur] Kemble arrived in Washington [D. C.] from New York [N. Y.], and said that Mr. [James K.] Pauld-

ing is well in health and recovering in spirits; Mrs. Wright sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

448. 1842, Feb. 17. SILAS WRIGHT, JR., Washington, [D. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Acknowledges his letter of February 11; he is sending Poinsett a copy of the "Glentworth disclosures" by this mail; unfortunately, the disclosures are not accompanied by evidence corroborating [James B.] Glentworth; the testimony was withheld because denials were expected, and prosecutions for printing were feared; it was probably safer to follow this course, but the sale of the book has been destroyed; the "pipe-layers have pursued the course which discretion dictated, viz: Kept still, alledging that Glentworth's testimony is that of a self-impeached witness, not calling for answer, or contradiction"; he [Wright] has heard from Mr. [Henry D.] Gilpin that Mr. [Martin] Van Buren will leave New York on February 22 for his southern and western tour, and that Mr. [James K.] Paulding will accompany him; it is now apparent that Mr. [Henry] Clay has won the support of the Whigs of both House and Senate, and is planning an attack on "Captain [John] Tyler"; this will open a war not to be ended except by unconditional surrender, or utter annihilation; the state of things in Washington [D. C.] will soon be more disgraceful than even the Whig reign; Mrs. Wright sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 26.5 cm. x 21 cm.

449. 1842, Mar. 14. J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Mr. [Martin] Van Buren and Mr. [James K.] Paulding have just left after a week's visit; they wish Kemble had been with them; the Peedee Club dined Van Buren; Kemble must visit them either at Georgetown and see the rice and irrigation or at Greenville [S. C.] where there is gold and iron; the President's [John Tyler's] messages are strange documents—"the acts of this administration will form a singular interlude in our history, never, I trust, to be repeated"; asks what will be the result of [John S.] Hogan's arrest; relations with Great Britain are more and more complicated; the eastern portion of the United States would be hard to defend; in the event of war the laboring population should be moved to the upper country; war is unnecessary, but this weak and timid administration will invite hostility by lack of firmness; [James K.] Paulding is well and

in good spirits; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards to Kemble's family.
A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

450. 1842, Mar. 16. J. R. P[OINSETT], Georgetown, S. C. To [JAMES I. McKAY, Chairman] Military Committee on Allowance to MAJOR [SAMUEL] COOPER, [Washington, D. C.]

He has been informed by a friend in Washington [D. C.] that a committee is investigating the allowance of double rations made by Poinsett to Major [Samuel] Cooper while he was acting as Assistant Adjutant General in the War Office; Poinsett was justified in extending Cooper all the indulgences allowed by the law and the usages of the office, because of the latter's constant and laborious fulfillment of his public duties; Poinsett, although he knew that similar officers in military bureaus received double rations because of the additional expenses involved in residence in Washington, refused Cooper's first application for this allowance; when Cooper's duties were made particularly heavy because of Poinsett's severe illness, he granted Cooper double rations to take effect from the time he entered upon his duties in the War Office; there are many precedents, set by both Congress and the executive, for granting double rations, and for antedating the orders; treble rations were granted to Major General [Winfield] Scott in order to remunerate him for expenses incurred in connection with the removal of the Cherokees; this order was given many months after the service had been rendered; during his administration of the War Office, Poinsett was more solicitous to reveal his official acts than to conceal them.

A. Df. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

451. 1842, Mar. 25. THOS. JOHNSON, Randolph Macon College, Va. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

The Franklin Literary Society of Randolph Macon College has elected Poinsett an honorary member; he is distinguished for talent and integrity, shown in his faithful discharge of official duties, his maintenance of national honor in other countries, and the exhibition of intellect in whatever he has attempted.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

452. 1842, Mar. 28. SOLOMON COHEN, RICHARD D. ARNOLD, I. K. TEFFT, Committee of Board of Managers, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, [Ga.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

The board of managers of the Georgia Historical Society has unanimously voted to invite Poinsett to deliver their anniversary

oration on February 12, 1843; the subject of the address may be anything related to American history.

Endorsed in Poinsett's hand, "Historical Society of Georgia. March 28. Answered 4 April 1842."

L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

453. 1842, Apr. 2. GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Acknowledges letter of March 14; he has failed to answer it because of the visit of Com[modore Alexander] Wadsworth, who is closing up his spring inspection; only one gun out of 250 made by Kemble since his return to the foundry broke in the powder proof; that resulted from imperfection of the bore rather than from defect in the metal; he [Kemble] has lost much money in the past three or four years from trusting men who deceived him, and so has to go to work again; these circumstances, in addition to a lawsuit of the foundry about a dike, prevented his traveling South with Mr. [Martin] Van Buren and [James K.] Paulding; the latter was much gratified by the trip, which was extended to include Mobile [Ala.], "where I think their presence will probably be of service to Kemble"; Mary [Kemble's sister, wife of Robert P. Parrott] is pleased at the prospect of seeing Mrs. Poinsett; they will try to meet the Poinsetts in Washington [D. C.] soon and to visit them in the summer at Greenville [S. C.]; he wants to see the mineral region of North and South Carolina, "which is almost a sealed Book to us northern men"; he [Kemble] has lately obtained an English translation of a book by [Justus von] Liebig, a German, on agricultural chemistry;⁹ it is most curious and interesting; advises Poinsett to procure a copy; Liebig "makes your plant to eat, drink and sleep, and perform all the functions of Nature as well as if it were a man or a horse—truly, these Germans are strange fellows"; the folly and imbecility which has procured the present political, financial, and commercial state of affairs may ruin the country, and may cause war with England; although the present administration [of President John Tyler] has neither wisdom nor firmness to settle the dispute, and Lord Ashburton's [Alexander Baring] mission will fail, yet Kemble believes war will be averted, at least temporarily, for France's hesitation in ratifying the quintuple treaty respecting the right of search must convince England that a war in United States will certainly involve Europe; but Kemble trembles for the very existence of the government—"never have I seen the union in so much danger of dissolution; and I am satisfied that our form of Government has more to fear from the weakness of a president than from his ambition—amid

⁹ Justus Liebig, *Organic Chemistry* (Cambridge and Boston, 1841).

defalcation and disgrace almost everywhere, I am happy and proud to turn to the Conduct of our Democratic Legislature, which has boldly determined to meet the difficulties of the state in the only honest mode, by taxation . . . and it appears to have been met by the people . . . I trust that the example will have its influence at Washington & elsewhere."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

454. [1842, Apr. 4]. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To S[OLOMON] COHEN, R[ICHARD] D. ARNOLD, and I. K. TEFFT, [Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Ga.]

Acknowledges their letter of March 28 [q. v.] conveying the invitation of the board of managers of the Georgia Historical Society to deliver the next anniversary oration to the society; as he is uncertain whether he can deliver the address on the stipulated date [February 12, 1843], he must decline the honor.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 20.5 cm. x 12.5 cm.

455. 1842, Apr. 18. RICHARD HARRISON, Liverpool, [Eng.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

He has been in London since he wrote to Poinsett on April 1, and has ascertained that the Mr. Baring whom Poinsett wished him to visit is on the continent, and his return to England uncertain; accordingly he showed Poinsett's [enclosed] paper to Mr. Gordon, a friend of Harrison's whom Poinsett knew in Mexico, and a principal partner in the firm of Lizardi & Co.; according to Gordon, the firm mentioned in Poinsett's paper is most reputable; Gordon advises that Poinsett write directly to the firm to find out if the claim has been finally settled; the property fluctuates so much that no one outside of Mexico can give the required information; Harrison feels that Gordon's advice should be followed; he is returning the paper with this letter; he will send Poinsett's garden chair as soon as some vessel sails for Charleston [S. C.].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

For enclosure *see* entry 109.

456. 1842, Apr. 22. D[ENNIS] A. SMITH, Baltimore, [Md.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

The trustees authorized to receive the indemnity for the claim upon the Mexican government for supplies furnished to General [Francisco] Mina are going to allow him [Smith] a commission for going to Mexico a second time to aid in the prosecution of that claim; he must furnish testimony that he went to Mexico in 1825

and performed the required services; asks Poinsett to make a statement as to his [Smith's] presence in Mexico in 1825 and his proceedings in the case; the testimony of Padre Meyers and others was left in the hands of Mr. [James S.] Wilcocks and was read by Poinsett at the time, and Poinsett later spoke of the testimony favorably in a letter to Mr. [Robert] Oliver.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

457. [1842], [Apr.]. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To THOM[A]S JOHNSON, Corresponding Secretary of the Franklin Literary Society, [Randolph Macon College, Va.]

He acknowledges letter of March 25 informing him that the Franklin Literary Society of Randolph Macon College had elected him an honorary member; he accepts the honor.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 20 cm. x 12.5 cm.

458. 1842, May 7. J. L. MARTIN and J. HEART, Washington, D. C.

Prospectus of *The Spectator*, a newspaper to be published weekly at Washington [D. C.]: It will summarize the proceedings of both houses of Congress, and elucidate them with comments or remarks; occasionally speeches will be printed in full; the questions of the day will be discussed editorially; selections from foreign newspapers will be printed; literature will not be neglected, but will be subordinated to politics; the editors are Democratic in opinion; the terms are three dollars a year, or five dollars for two years; the first number will be issued in June.

Broadside. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Note to Poinsett is written on broadside. See entry 460.

459. 1842, May 12. J. R. P[OINSETT], Charleston, S. C. To [FRANCES TYRRELL], [England]

He remembers how kind the Tyrrell family was to him in his childhood; he has often quoted the Tyrrell family "as an instance of the wholesome influence of a superior mind over her children"; he had an almost filial regard for her mother, to whom he owes much; Mrs. Dolland has given him some account of the Tyrrells; he feels most interest in English matters when they concern the Tyrrells; Mrs. Poinsett threatens to send her [Frances Tyrrell] a better portrait of him than she now has; he would like to send her a plant of the Poinsetta *pulcherima* if possible; the Poinsetts live in the country since his retirement from public office, on the banks of the

Peedee River near Georgetown [S. C.] in the summer; they prefer this to the excitement of public life, but Mrs. Poinsett fears he will miss the latter; he envies her [Frances Tyrrell] her proximity to Switzerland and Italy, which he would love to revisit; Mrs. Poinsett hates the sea, but would cross it to see the continent again, but he cannot leave home for a long period of time; if they do come, they will visit North Devon and see how the school is coming along, and how the garden at Wilderscot is thriving; "I love England and never have forgotten my early impressions of its scenery and its people. If my lot had been cast there I should have been very happy and quiet. Here I have . . . sought to become one of the national aristocracy of the land. It is hard to say which is the wisest but in this country where every one is seeking to rise and to better his condition there is no alternative. Insignificance is moral degradation"; asks to be remembered to her sister Eliza; he had heard that Mrs. Dolland lost her sister, but not about the bank failure.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 5 pp. 32 cm. x 19 cm.

460. 1842, May 13. J. L. MARTIN, Washington, D. C.
To [J. R. POINSETT]

"I send you the prospectus of a weekly democratic paper [*The Spectator*] which I am about to establish under very favorable auspices and I solicit your kind efforts to promote its circulation."

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Written on page 4 of the prospectus. See entry 458.

461. 1842, May 24. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He had hoped to see Kemble in Washington, [D. C.] but on the eve of their departure Mrs. Poinsett sprained her instep; they expect to leave in a few days; at such a distance the disturbances in Rhode Island seem ridiculous; the charter party ought not to have triumphed, and could not but for the intemperate conduct of their opponents; he dreads the trip to Washington and will make it as short as possible; "our institution [National Institute?] will bring me too much in contact with the rulers of the land and it will be impossible to stand that—my disposition is to coax it along for the next three years and then take hold of it in earnest. Such a course squares best with my political feelings and the necessity of attending to my own private affairs"; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards to Kemble and whatever part of the family is assembled in Cold Spring, [N. Y.].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

462. 1842, June 3. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

They would like to meet him in Washington if convenient to him; he [Poinsett] went to see the collection of the Nat[ional] Inst[itute] and was surprised at its value and extent; the House [of Representatives] passed the bill to incorporate the Institute yesterday [June 2] without debate and by a large majority; he hopes that Kemble can time his visit so as to be present at the monthly meeting, which will be held Monday week; the Poinsetts are staying at Mrs. Ulrich's, opposite the Treasury, where "[John] McKeon keeps off the Whigs . . . I wonder how the officers of the Army and Navy who were sound to the core according to Mr. [Henry] Clay, relish the change they helped to bring about"; Mrs. Poinsett sends her regards; she is well, but lame from having sprained her foot; "I had crossed the l [in "lame"] which does not describe her condition."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

463. 1842, June 10. CHARLES WILKES, New York, [N. Y.].
To JOEL R. POINSETT

Subsequent to his departure from the United States in August 1838 statements were made in the newspapers that his appointment to the command of the Exploring Squadron had been solicited by himself or his friends; wants Poinsett to tell him if he knows of any such solicitation direct or indirect.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20 cm. x 25 cm.

464. 1842, June 25. [GEN.] H[ENRY] A. S. DEARBORN,
Boston, [Mass.]. To J. R. POINSETT

He wrote Poinsett in the spring of 1841, proposing a plan for appropriating the public ground annexed to the Capitol and the President's house [in Washington, D. C.] for an experimental garden and pleasure parks, and asking Poinsett to give the project publicity, if he thought it expedient; Poinsett answered that he had sent the letter to Washington to be published in the *Intelligencer*; he [Dearborn] has not seen it in that paper, and a letter to the editors elicited the response that they never received the letter; he will appreciate having it published if it isn't lost, and if the idea suggested in it conforms to the views of the National Institute, especially of that branch of the association recently established to promote agriculture; he is dealing with Poinsett in this matter because he has done much for the advancement of science, and because he is one of the founders and most active officers of the [National] Institute; he [Dearborn] wants horticulture, agriculture, and orna-

mental planting to be fostered and encouraged, and not primarily because he wants to get himself into print.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

465. 1842, Aug. 5. J. R. POINSETT, Kinderhook, [N. Y.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, New York, [N. Y.]

He will mail this letter on the boat which is taking them to Hyde Park [N. Y.], where they propose to stay until Tuesday [August 9]; they have spent a pleasant week, riding and driving about and playing a "comfortable game" in the evenings; Major [James L.?] Donaldson has just left them to return to Tennessee; he [Donaldson], believes that the enemy [the Whigs] is strong in the West and that a strict union of the [Democratic] Party is necessary for success, also that the Democrats in the West will rally only in favor of Mr. [Martin] Van Buren; he urged Poinsett to visit Tennessee and other southwestern states to strengthen the party there; Poinsett may do so when the time comes; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards to Kemble and to Mr. and Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott and all the family assembled at Cold Spring; she anticipates the drive from Mr. [E. W.] Laight's to Cold Spring, but is concerned over the baggage problem; "she has no confidence in Steam boat servants"; they planned to meet Kemble on Tuesday [August 9] at Newburg [N. Y.], but their host [Van Buren] persuaded them to stay until Monday; they will be at Laight's until Wednesday and will meet Kemble on Thursday, if convenient to him.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

466. 1842, Aug. 18. M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Lindenwald, [Columbia Co., N. Y.]. To SAMUEL DIXON, New York, [N. Y.]

Mr. Poinsett will deliver this letter, and may want him [Dixon] to make some sashes for him.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosed in letter from Van Buren to Poinsett; *see* next entry.

467. 1842, Aug. 19. M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Lindenwald, [Columbia Co., N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, New York, [N. Y.]

He has just returned from a day's visit to Lebanon [N. Y.]; he encloses the letter to the sash-maker [Samuel Dixon] which he forgot to give Poinsett; thanks Poinsett for the information he has procured for him; sends regards to Mrs. P[oinsett].

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

For enclosure *see* preceding entry.

468. 1842, Aug. 23. [COL.] J[OHN] J. ABERT, [Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, New York, [N. Y.]

The enclosure was just handed to him at the War Office; Poinsett's absence at the last two meetings of the [National] Institute was regretted; \$20,000 had been appropriated for the arrangement and preservation of the collections of the Exploring Squadron; a bill was before Congress to appropriate a much larger amount for the publication of results; the Institute was directly concerned in the former, but would not interfere with the latter should it become law; at the request of the Navy Department, the committee [of the Institute] reported on the first appropriation, omitting, for justifiable reasons, to recommend the employ of a conchologist, but taking three out of nine of the "Scientific Corps," the number which the committee thought could be profitably employed; the committee does not consider that the corps has any claim on this appropriation, though they would have one upon the publication appropriation, as that would involve their literary reputation; but the committee considered that the first appropriation concerned the preparation of the collections for the museum, and as such required scientific manipulators rather than collectors; a conchologist by the name of Mr. Conthoy [?] who was sent from the [Exploring] Squadron in November 1839, made a violent attack on the committee, accusing them of improprieties; the real reason for his attack was the failure of the committee to recommend his employment out of this appropriation; the attack caused the Secretary of the Navy to request that the society take no action on the subject; this ended the discussion, but at a subsequent meeting a member of the society moved that the committee be discharged; the vote was 58 to 2 against this motion; but King behaved foolishly, and introduced a series of resolutions sustaining Conthoy's attack, but later withdrew them, and in the end had harmed only himself; Abert doubts whether the Navy Department will continue to pay King, who has on every altercation at the Institute opposed his old friends and those who placed him in his present position and sustained him there; he seems to want to throw off the control of the Institute and to make himself an "*imperium in imperio*"; he is working against his own best interests in following such an antagonistic course; he lacks the judgment and intellect necessary to sustain himself in a position of consequence; the desire to make himself of consequence is leading him "out of the only path in which he really is of any consequence—the simple one of curators"; the directors of the Institute feel that King should be discharged from his office, but the committee will give him

another chance; the result of all this is that the views of the committee have not yet been decided upon, and the proposed modifications, which will probably prevail, are not the result of as much experience as the committee actually possesses; they are not making much opposition to the modifications; scientific naturalists are essential to such an Institute, but they lack the qualities enabling them to manage others; asks Poinsett to give his regards to [Martin] Van Buren.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

469. 1842, Oct. 1. M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Lindenwald, [Columbia Co., N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.]

Acknowledges his letter; Colonel [Thomas H.] B[enton], Van Buren hopes, is placing a worse construction on Mr. C[alhoun's] designs than they deserve; he [Benton] overestimates his [Calhoun's] ability to make trouble; the only course which Van Buren can follow is that of leaving the matter to the Democratic Party; he has learned that there is much intrigue in N[ew] England, which has served to show that the people there are united as never before; Colonel and Mrs. [Richard] Singleton are visiting him, and they all went to the State Fair at Albany [N. Y.]; when they leave he will visit Mr. E. P. Livingston, and then stay at home until January [1843], when he will go to N[ew] York [N. Y.] for a few months; Colonel Singleton was much interested in a new kind of manure, patented by the inventor, made from corn stalks, and he [Van Buren] is sending Schenck up to find out the results of the investigation of it by a committee of the [Agricultural] Society; his crops have yielded well; he sold his apples for \$350, enough to pay Schenck for the year; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett, Mr. and Mrs. [Julius] Pringle, and General [Benjamin] Huger.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 19.5 cm.

470. 1842, Oct. 10. G[OUVERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Greenville C[ourt] H[ouse], S. C.

Acknowledges Poinsett's letter; he has been intending to visit Albany [N. Y.], stopping at Kinderhook [N. Y.] afterwards; [James K.] Paulding was to have gone along, but backed out; he [Kemble] has been prevented from going by [Robert P.] Parrott's absence in New Hampshire; on his [Kemble's] visit to Washington [D. C.] last winter, he was convinced that a conspiracy was on foot to prevent the election of Mr. [Martin] Van Buren to the presidency; Mr.

[James] Buchanan and Mr. [John C.] Calhoun agreed in this, if in nothing else; an attempt was made to win over Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.] by an offer of the vice-presidency, or by a seat in the Cabinet which he declined; Wright could not prevent nor nullify the arguments used with the representatives from New York when backed by the patronage of the executive; for Mr. [John] Tyler, with a view to defeat Van Buren, threw his weight in with Calhoun, looking to his own re-election, "in which he has been most egregiously bamboozled as he will eventually discover"; the only person apparently supporting the re-election of the ex-President [Van Buren] was [Thomas H.] Benton; Kemble then visited Albany [N. Y.] to see Van Buren's friends there, and to urge the legislature not to separate without expression of an opinion; a Democratic convention decided it was too early to do that; he will go again to Albany, but thinks nothing can be done until after the meeting of the legislature; he believes Calhoun will not stand, but will, by dividing the Democratic vote, bring the question into the House [of Representatives]; he may be able to effect this by drawing off the votes of North and South Carolina and Alabama; the result of this would be to add to the chances of [Henry] Clay; [Moses H.] Grinnell told him that this was the Whigs' opinion, and that the Democrats would have to take Calhoun or nobody; all the late appointments have gone to Calhoun's friends; "that arch rogue [Edward] Curtis, whose appointment to the Collectorship was opposed by Clay, is the head-devil—my successor [Aaron] Ward, has had a hand in the pie, and appointed his son-in-law chief clerk of the post-office—I just learn that he has lost his nomination and that a person by the name of [Joseph] Anderson, will be run in his stead"; the new arrangement of the state has changed his political associations by annexing this county [Putnam] to Dutchess County, instead of Westchester County; he will write upon his return from Albany.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

471. 1842, Nov. 15. G[OUVERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

New York went strongly Democratic in the recent elections; a movement by the state in relation to the presidency is under consideration now; he will inform Poinsett when there is definite news; the doubtful members of the New York legislature have been replaced by new men; General [Aaron] Ward was defeated; [Richard D.] Davis, also doubtful, had to come out openly on the subject in order to be renominated by the party; an ultra-radical clique in New York City has discovered that the patronage of Mr. [John] Tyler's administration was given to Mr. [John C.] Calhoun and his friends only, and therefore is supporting him [Calhoun] for the presidency;

but this is limited to the city, and the rest of the state is united against him; Kemble doesn't believe the people would vote for Calhoun even if he were nominated by a national convention; they prefer [Martin] Van Buren; the people are opposed to a rebellion against the Union; this feeling holds in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, though in the latter state the politicians favor Calhoun; no act of Van Buren's life has harmed him so much as his treatment of Poinsett in relation to the militia project, which is quoted in evidence of his want of faith; it has even affected Van Buren's friend [Benjamin C.?] Howard, and "Thomas has been indefatigable in bringing up his old grievance about the speaker's chair"; Kemble himself thought Van Buren was morally and politically wrong, and showed want of firmness; Alabama, North and South Carolina, and possibly Virginia and Maryland would back Mr. C[alhoun] in the convention, but it is doubtful if he could command a majority; they still believe [Thomas?] Ritchie is true; he [Kemble] is sending a sofa and a chair as a gift to the Poinsetts; a patent water wheel can be bought for \$1,000.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

472. 1842, Dec. 5. [COL.] J[OHN] J. ABERT, [Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Acknowledges letter of November 27; Colonel [William C.] Preston's resignation from the Senate is a great loss to the [National] Institute; Mr. [Robert J.] Walker may be even more friendly than he has been because of the loss of Preston, but he cannot be the link, as Preston was, between the two parties; Preston was broad-minded, liberal, and active, and able and willing to conciliate between the two parties; Mr. [John Q.] Adams should be brought back as a director at the next election; he was left out at the last one by the folly and opposition of King; Adams' aid will be essential in arranging the Smithsonian matter; a meeting of the directors of the Institute will soon be held; the directors manage the fiscal concerns of the Institute; the directors should also act as a board of managers for the expenditure of the government appropriations for arranging and preserving the collections; the directors, acting in this capacity, should present to Congress a statement of expenditures made under the last appropriation of \$20,000; that work should not be left to a government department; the foregoing are the views of Mr. [Abel P.] Upshur; no estimates will be submitted, nor is it considered the duty of any one department to prepare any; the Institute must accordingly act through the medium of its board of directors; it is regretted that Poinsett will not visit Washington [D. C.] during the winter; his advice will be needed; the Institute is the admiration and

wonder of visitors; [Francis] Markoe [Jr.] works very hard and is enthusiastically devoted to the Institute; Abert sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 32 cm. x 20 cm.

473. 1842. JOEL R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

Notarized statement: Mr. Dennis A. Smith of Baltimore [Md.] has been personally known to Poinsett since 1822, at which period they saw much of each other in Mexico; Mr. Smith was engaged at that time in procuring evidence in support of a claim against the government of Mexico for supplies provided for General [Francisco] Mina by himself and others in Baltimore; in 1825 Smith and Poinsett went together to Mexico in the frigate *Constellation*; on that trip Mr. Smith remained in Mexico several months; Mr. Smith went to Mexico as agent jointly with Mr. John Mason to present the Mina claim; Mr. Smith faithfully and diligently attended to his duties in connection with this claim; he succeeded in obtaining valuable testimony about the claim from Padre Mier, an eminent ecclesiastic of Mexico, especially distinguished as a patriot in the Mexican revolution, from Mr. Santa Maria, the Columbian minister to Mexico, and from Colonel Yary, all of whom were attached to the Mina expedition from Baltimore [Md.]; Poinsett saw the testimony of these persons, the papers being with his consent deposited by Mr. Smith with the Consul General Mr. [James S.] Wilcox [Wilcocks]; Poinsett was at that time Minister to Mexico from the United States; when Mr. Smith returned, he brought with him a copy of the law of the Mexican congress recognizing the debts of General Mina.

Cy. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

474. 1843, Jan. 2. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his letter, which cheered him—"for if Mr. [John C.] Calhoun can succeed by the reckless course he has pursued I should despair of the Republic"; this feeling does not proceed from personal animosity though there was a time when he felt a deadly hostility to Calhoun and regarded him as an enemy to his country; now he looks chiefly to the evil example of giving so signal a triumph to the nullifiers and enemies of the Union; the Calhoun party in North Carolina was too weak to elect its favorite to the Senate; he [Poinsett] regrets [Bedford] Brown's defeat but rejoices in that of [Romulus M.] Saunders, "who has met the reward he merited for his apostacy"; [Robert B.] Rhett's defeat in the [South Carolina] legislature is another triumph; [Daniel E.?] Huger was a Union man, and is no friend of Calhoun's, but will go with the state [of South Caro-

lina] in favor of Calhoun's election; General [Lewis] Cass will not succeed, as he lacks firmness of purpose; [Martin] Van Buren's letter to a Philadelphia [Pa.] friend has been helpful to his cause, for it was couched in more positive language than that addressed to the Missouri legislature; Poinsett pities "poor [John C.] Spencer and his descendants—I am a believer in the virtue of blood descent in all animals. His progeny ought to be stifled"; Poinsett gives credit to [Alexander] Slidell McKenzie and believes he will emerge triumphant from the court of enquiry; "The country will do justice to his decision and boldness"; the Indian Department needs reorganization, but that is impeded by the number of Congressmen interested in maintaining its *status quo*; he [Poinsett] could have done it had Van Buren been re-elected; invites Kemble to visit them this winter; the stage leaves Charleston [S. C.] every afternoon at four o'clock and reaches Georgetown [S. C.] at seven the next morning, where their carriage will meet him; it is three days from Washington [D. C.] to Charleston.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

475. 1843, Apr. 14. FRANCIS BOWEN, Editor of the *N[orth] A[merican] Review*, Boston, [Mass.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

The *N[orth] A[merican] Review* for April contains Poinsett's article on the Exploring Expedition; Bowen received the manuscript in January, without the writer's name, from Mr. [Charles] Pickering, and it was printed before Bowen knew who the author was; this is regrettable, for there may be errors which could have been corrected; with Poinsett's permission, he will make known the authorship of the article; he will send Poinsett twelve dollars for the article when he knows his address; he would like him to contribute more to the *Review*, which is a convenient channel for gaining the notice of the literary and scientific world.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20.5 cm.

476. 1843, May 5. ALEXANDRE VATTEMARE, Paris, [France]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C.

He is sending him a copy of the proceedings of the assembly in which he gave an account to the Americans in Paris of his measures to obtain the permanent and regular application of the system of exchanges between the United States and France; he owes Poinsett this communication because of the latter's constant favor to him and because of Poinsett's connection with the [National] Institute; the communication will show Poinsett what he [Vattemare] has asked, what he has obtained, and what he is still hoping for; all America is ap-

plauding this work of his; he is also sending a copy to the "Minister of Foreign Affairs" with the request that he submit it to the Committee of the Library of Congress; he is afraid the system of exchanges will be broken off because he must retire from Paris to live with his family; he has never made the exchange system an object of speculation, but had always acted on philanthropic and Christian principles; he explained the necessity for his retirement to Mr. [Daniel] Webster; he would hate to see all his labors and successes come to naught; he regrets that he must leave at this moment when he has almost completely realized his object.

A. L. S. In French. 2 pp. 26 cm. x 21 cm.

477. 1843, May 24. J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Invites Kemble to visit them at Greenville, where they are spending the summer; it is in the mineral region of North and South Carolina; the National Institute is planning to meet in Washington [D. C.] in April 1844, and the Geological Society and all scientific men in the country have been invited to attend; the Geological Society, however, took no notice of the invitation, and postponed its annual meeting from April to May, as if to avoid mingling with the Institute as one of its branches; the Institute has asked Poinsett to address the meeting, an honor which he is disposed to decline for several reasons; first, the meeting must be postponed to May "to catch the Geologists" who will be unwilling assistants; second, he is "averse to mingle with the heterogeneous materials that composed the [John] Tyler Cabinet . . . especially at the period of their convention"; South Carolina and some states will adhere to the time set for the Democratic convention and "make a quarrel with us if need be on that question"; Poinsett does not wish to give the appearance of interfering with these concerns; he has made it publicly known that he is opposed to Mr. [John C.] Calhoun's pretensions, but he doesn't want voluntarily to take an active part against his native state; if he went to Washington [D. C.] at that time he would be impelled to speak of his preference for [Martin] Van Buren; asks Kemble's advice on the matter; the sofa and chair Kemble sent are under the oaks in the lawn; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards to Kemble and all the family in New York and at Cold Spring.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

478. 1843, June 15. H[ENRY] D. GILPIN, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C.

Acknowledges his letter; the Democrats in Philadelphia, both city and county, show a decided preference for Mr. [Martin] Van Bu-

ren as the next President; state pride has led to the nomination of Mr. [James] Buchanan as the "first choice" of Pennsylvania; the support of the newspapers gives Buchanan the appearance of having greater strength than he really has; Gilpin believes the state vote in convention will be given to Van Buren; Colonel [Richard M.] Johnson has a considerable party in the interior, General [Lewis] Cass a small one; [John C.] Calhoun has no supporters in Pennsylvania; like Poinsett, he fears the secession of South Carolina if Calhoun is not nominated; the way the convention is being planned, and the support given it by the *Globe*, *Enquirer*, and *Argus*, will render such a coup harmless; Calhoun's friends are abandoning their points about the convention and are going to make the vote on the tariff in the next Congress the test of strength; this will not succeed, as Van Buren's views on the tariff were satisfactory to the South at the last election; in New England there is a small group of Calhoun partisans under the secret but vigorous leadership of Mr. [Levi] Woodbury but it has made little impression on the Democracy of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, or Connecticut; Judge [Benjamin] Tappan and Mr. [William] Allen say that Ohio is for Van Buren; he hopes that he and Mrs. Gilpin will see the Poinsetts at Lindenwald [N. Y.] when they visit Mr. Van Buren in August; he regrets that Poinsett was unable to attend the late centennial celebration of the Philosophical Society in Philadelphia; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett and Mr. and Mrs. [Julius] Pringle.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

479. 1843, June 17. F. COTTENET, New York, N. Y. To J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C.

Acknowledges his letter of May 26; he has negotiated the order it contained; he paid \$100 to Mr. [Edward] Laight and \$30.28 for "the passage of the German from Bremen [Germany]," leaving a balance to Poinsett's credit of \$14.38; he was unable to obtain the knives from Germany, but he will have them made by Germans in the cutlery business in this country; William's [?] health is improved, and he will be back in several weeks; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 26.5 cm. x 21.5 cm.

480. [1843, June 29]. GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, [Cold Spring, N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C.

Acknowledges his letter of May 24; the geologists have very narrow views; Poinsett should join them, and then assume the leadership of them thus making them powerful adjuncts to the National Institute; Kemble regards the meeting at Washington [D. C.] as an opportunity for Poinsett to render a real service to the Institute; he suggests that the Institute meetings be held a few days after those of

the Geological Society; Poinsett shall let politics take care of itself, if the convention is postponed until May, 1844; he will not be able to help [Martin] Van Buren, as his own state [South Carolina] is opposed to his views, but Van Buren will have [Silas] Wright [Jr.] on hand to assist; he [Kemble] has had influenza, which, coming from the South with the President [John Tyler] has been called "Tyler grip"; Mary [Kemble's sister, wife of Robert P. Parrott], [James K.] Paulding, and [Robert P.] Parrott are at the sulphur spring in Sharon [N. Y.]; Kemble has sent Mrs. Poinsett an ironwork table, and an embroidered cover made by Mary [Parrott]; the unexpected death of [Hugh S.] Legaré [Attorney-General] at Boston [Mass.] is a severe loss to the [John] Tyler cabinet; because of the sudden death, there was a post-mortem examination, which revealed intestinal trouble; his inordinate vanity ruined his usefulness, and made him the dupe of others; Mr. [John C.] Spencer is pushing to replace Mr. [Abel P.] Upshur in the State Department, with a view to putting a friend of his in the Navy Department; Kemble thinks he will succeed; [James M.] Porter, the new Secretary of War, "professes to go for Governor [Lewis] Cass," but Kemble thinks their intrigue will be valueless.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

481. 1843, Sept. 2. GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Greenville C[ourt] H[ouse], S. C.

The defeat of [James K.] Polk in Tennessee will make Poinsett's call to Washington [D. C.] in May [1844] by the [National] Institute essential to the harmony of the Democratic party; many of Mr. [Martin] Van B[uren]'s friends consider Poinsett the most proper nominee for the vice-presidency, and they are joined in this by the Union friends in Georgia and S[outh] Carolina; with the exception of Old Hickory [Andrew Jackson] the Tennessee Dynasty was never true to Poinsett and Van Buren, "nor would they be to any man who did not squirt tobacco juice"; the Democrats would be benefited by the defection of Tennessee to the Whigs; [James K.] Paulding and Kemble plan to visit Mr. Van B[uren], after which Kemble is making a trip to Michigan; the postponement of the convention will probably not alter the final result although it will lead to much intrigue; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

482. 1843, Sept. 13. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his letter of September 2, which surprised him; he had told Kemble that he had understood from General [James]

Miller that [Thomas H.] Benton and a few others would prefer to have Poinsett on the ticket with [Martin] Van Buren, rather than [James K.] Polk or any other person; Poinsett believed then that party interests demanded Polk's name; he wants Kemble to understand that he is primarily a party man, working for party interests; his regard for Van Buren is not hero worship, but interest in the welfare of the party; Van Buren must be consulted on the question of a running-mate; he [Poinsett] will go to Washington [D. C.] in May [1844] for the meeting of the [National] Institute if Kemble and others think it better for the Democratic Party; sends regards to [James K.] Paulding; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards; thanks him for the gift he sent Mrs. Poinsett; the latter will thank Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott herself for her gift; the Poinsetts send regards to Mr. and Mrs. Parrott.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

483. 1843, Oct. 3. THO[MAS] M. COX, A. B. CROOK, JOHN G. HAMLIN, Committee on Lectures, Lyceum Hall, [Greenville, S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C.

Thank him in behalf of the Greenville Lyceum for the lecture he delivered on September 30, and request a copy of the lecture for publication.

L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 19 cm.

484. 1843, Nov. 4. [COL.] J[OHN] J. ABERT, [Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT

Acknowledges letter of the 26 [of October]; he has sent notes about Poinsett's paper to the [Washington] *Globe* and to the office of the Nat[ional] In[stitute]; if [Francis] Markoe [Jr.] has not preserved a copy of the paper with [Henry] Wheaton's letter upon the "wahalla" [Valhalla?], he doubts if he can procure one; the Cabinet was indignant at the course of the Explorers in reference to the Institute, which has resulted in a change of feeling and of action; they are not soliciting donations, as they are pressed for room, and haven't the means to pay transportation, yet gifts continue to pour in; the country is enthusiastic about the Institute, and they hope for Congressional aid this winter; asks Poinsett to ask [Thomas H.] Benton to help; [Joseph N.] Nicollet's report and map are in the hands of the printer and engraver; the Secretary of War [James M. Porter] gave Nicollet's unfinished notes on Indian matters to Dr. Martin to translate; Markoe is a valuable worker for the Institute; his enthusiasm, industry, and intelligence are above all praise; whatever [Benjamin] Tappan says, the Institute is following the great design planned for

it; "The day will yet come when the little meetings at your house will be spoken of with proper commendation"; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

485. 1843, Nov. 12. J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his letter; they have just moved to the banks of the Peedee for the winter; invites Kemble to visit them whenever possible; Poinsett will be satisfied with whatever decision [Martin] Van Buren makes about a running-mate on the ticket, but he doesn't want to be exposed to a "waterloo defeat" at the convention; the people of South Carolina are intriguing to bring the nomination into the House and to invalidate the decision of the convention if it supports Van Buren; Poinsett refers to [George] McDuffie's argument in 1825 in favor of an alteration of the Constitution in this particular, when [John Q.] Adams was elected by the House; McDuffie has changed his mind since then; [John C.] Calhoun's friends might be conciliated by promising him support as Van Buren's successor; asks Kemble's advice on what kind of pump to use to convey water from the spring to his house, seventy feet higher; his rice and vegetable crops were good; he prefers rice to cotton, for where cotton is raised "the negroes too often have a whitish hue, whereas here they look coal black with bright shining faces"; he and Mrs. Poinsett send regards to Mr. and Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

486. 1843, Nov. 30. J. R. P[OINSETT], Georgetown,
[S. C.]. To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

He is sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Dolland and of her [Frances Tyrrell's] brother Frederic; he would like to see the book she mentioned; good sense, good temper, and good principles will ensure more lasting attachments than beauty and engaging manners; Mme. de Stael lamented her lack of beauty, in contrast to Mme. Recamier, but she inspired more passionate admiration and more lasting affection than the latter; the celebrated [John] Wilkes who was notoriously ugly used to say that the handsomest man in England had only half an hour's advantage over him; he doesn't envy her the presence of Mrs. [Anthony] Trollope—"The steamers bring such things over in shoals"; but he does envy her "the delightful tour through Devonshire and Cornwall with your sister and her husband"; he likes England best of all the countries he has seen; asks her why she waits for the completion of an "aerial machine" to fly over the Atlantic [Ocean], for steamers would bring her nearly

as swiftly and certainly more safely and comfortably; if she does come, they will take her out to see the West, especially the Mississippi, "our seat of Empire"; Mrs. Poinsett unites with him in urging her to come; he is sending her some trifles and asks if they shall go to her brother Timothy [Tyrrell] in London [Eng.]: "Your little Queen [Victoria] is rather restless as well as bold. I wonder she did not go to Paris [France] . . . She might have indulged her humour in the life time of [King] Louis Philippe: On his death there will probably be strange doings there"; Mr. [Daniel] O'Connell is a "pestilent fellow"—the disturbances in England are "fruits of the radical change introduced by the reform [of 1832]"; if he were English he'd be a Tory, whereas in America he is a Democrat, . . . it is safest "to maintain existing institutions, the power of Church and State on your side of the water and that of the people in these States"; in his church, the Protestant Episcopal, there is a difference of opinion; the clergy espouse the opinions of the Oxford Tractarians, and the laity oppose them; the latter holds the purse and therefore the power, for it is not an endowed church as in England; the Episcopalians are the smallest sect in the United States; the Baptists, Methodists, and Independents, descended from the Puritans, are more numerous; the descendents of the Huguenots, though their fathers were "rank Colonists," are mostly Episcopalian, "but your Puritans worship as their fathers did."

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 6 pp. 32 cm. x 19 cm.

487. 1843, Dec. 15. [MAJOR] S[AMUEL] COOPER, St. Louis, Mo. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

The President [John Tyler] claims in his annual message that he brought the war in Florida to a speedy close, though the War Department under Poinsett was really responsible for the successful handling of the Indians there: by March 4, 1841, five thousand hostile Indians had been either destroyed or removed from Florida; General [Zachary] Taylor was succeeded as leader in the Florida War by General [Walker K.] Armistead, and in 1840 Colonel [William J.] Worth was sent to assist the latter, whose inactivity made this step essential; Colonel Worth was put in command of the Florida forces, and General Armistead relieved soon after the change of administration, thus justifying Poinsett's selection of him; Cooper was on Worth's staff in Florida, and can testify to his excellent conduct of the war and of the return of the settlers to their homesteads; in February, 1842 Colonel Worth submitted a proposal to the War Department to cease hostilities and to allow friendly Indians to remain in Florida, though trying to persuade them that it was for their own good to emigrate; this was refused by a board of

officers unacquainted with the Florida situation; the Secretary of War [John C. Spencer] was opposed to the idea; the fighting was therefore continued, and another band of Indians captured; then negotiations were begun; in July [1842] an unexpected order from Washington commanded Colonel Worth to carry out the plan he had proposed in February; Colonel Worth then had freedom of action to realize his own ideas, and from that time dates the end of the Florida War; this summary will show who should have the credit for terminating the war; Cooper had a letter from Captain [William C.] De Hart, who said that General [Thomas S.] Jesup claimed in an official letter that army regulations were revised and published under the supervision of "Poinsett's *peculiar Cabinet*, Major Cooper and Captain De Hart"; this is untrue, for the revisions were all made either at Jesup's or Poinsett's suggestions; he [Cooper] was ordered to St. Louis [Mo.] by General [Edmund P.] Gaines as the staff officer of his command; he and Mrs. Cooper send regards to the Poinsetts.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 25.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

488. 1844, Jan. 5. THOS. S. LEE, ROBERT W. BRICE, and JOS. H. PRESSLY, Committee, Euphemian Society, Erskine College, Abbeville District, S. C. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

The Euphemian Society of Erskine College has elected Poinsett an honorary member; the society will be honored by his acceptance, for it needs the care and protection of the learned and of the great.

L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Poinsett's answer is written on the second page of this letter; *see* entry 493.

489. 1844, Jan. 15. J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He wishes Kemble would visit them; Julius Pringle has invested his inheritance from his paternal grandfather [John Julius Pringle] in a plantation near them, and will soon move; the Poinsetts will miss the Pringle children; he has erected a threshing mill, but cannot yet afford a steam engine; he uses horse power to run the mill; the newspapers show a triumph for [Martin] Van Buren; "Mr. [John C.] Calhoun's friends are in an extasy of rage," but they are impotent even in South Carolina; [Henry] Clay's few friends are forming clubs and parading their strength; "Clay is expected among them, and there is some talk of defection in the Democratic ranks. I cannot think however Calhoun and his friends will commit so felonious an act."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Attached is a note from Mrs. Poinsett to Kemble. See next entry.

490. [1844], [Jan. 15]. M[ARY] POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

She wants Kemble's sister and her husband [Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Parrott] to accompany Kemble when he visits the Poinsetts; the warm climate in South Carolina would benefit her; she [Mrs. Poinsett] misses her grandchildren.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

491. 1844, Jan. 25. M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Lindenwald, [Columbia Co., N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

He has written to Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.] on the subject of the enclosed [letter from Poinsett] which he is returning; Wright will send his [Van Buren's] letter to Poinsett; Poinsett's letter gave him the first inkling that any notice was being taken of [Carey A.] Harris' case; he is returning the enclosed because of a suggestion it contains which he left out of the extract sent to Wright; the suggestion "has no necessary reference to the matter, and might be prevented by those whose business is perversion, and whom we must give as full opportunities as possible for the exercise of their faculties"; asks to be remembered to Mrs. Poinsett, Mr. and Mrs. [Julius] Pringle, and "the young lady."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20 cm. x 25 cm.

492. 1844, Jan. 27. [REV.] SAMUEL GILMAN, Charleston, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Mr. Slater, who has recently published some letters relating to Cuba and Jamaica [West Indies] in the Savannah [Ga.] *Georgian*, later copied in the C[harleston, S. C.] *Courier*, plans to visit Mexico and wants letters of introduction; Slater's character is unimpeachable; he [Gilman] does not know Slater's first name, but a letter for him can be sent to I. K. Tefft.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

493. 1844, Jan. 29. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To [THOMAS S. LEE, ROBERT W. BRICE, and JOSEPH H. PRESSLY, Committee Euphemian Society, Erskine College, Abbeville District, S. C.]

Acknowledges their letter of January 5 announcing his election as an honorary member of the Euphemian Society of Erskine Col-

lege; he accepts the honor, and expresses his approbation of the objects of the society.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Written on the second page of letter from Lee, Brice and Pressly to Poinsett. See entry 488.

494. 1844, Feb. 16. FRANCIS MARKOE, JR., [Corresponding Secretary of the National Institute], Wash[ington, D. C.]. To [J. R.] POINSETT

He has been publishing a great deal lately in the [Washington] *Intelligencer*; nearly a hundred distinguished men have asked to attend the meeting [of the National Institute] in April to make addresses and speeches; if Poinsett cannot attend he is to send a communication to be read; Markoe suggests that Poinsett write on the subject of what the Institute has done in the past four years, and explain the claim it has on the government; Mr. [Richard] Rush will read an important paper; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett; Poinsett was unanimously elected president of the National Institute at the last meeting.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 19.5 cm.

495. 1844, Feb. 26. SILAS WRIGHT, [JR.], Washington, [D. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

He has received from [Martin] Van Buren a file of papers relative to the case of [Carey A.] Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs when Poinsett was Secretary of War, with an extract from Poinsett's letter to Van Buren on the subject; Poinsett in that letter refers to "the garbled statement made by the Committee," and Van Buren asked Wright to find out which committee was meant; he has searched through many records but can find nothing referring to Harris' leaving office; asks Poinsett to tell him to what document this allusion refers, giving its number, and the House in which it originated; their friend Cave Johnson of Tennessee is head of the House Committee on Indian Affairs and Wright believes it would be well to have that committee investigate the matter; if the original papers cannot be found, Poinsett's copies can be used, if he is willing; Van Buren thought this a good idea; he and Mrs. Wright send regards to the Poinsetts.

A. L. S. [Document damaged by fire]. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Poinsett's answer is written on third page of this letter; see entry 498.

496. 1844, Feb. 28. FRA[NCI]S B. OGDEN, Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

In September, 1840, Captain [John] Ericsson submitted to Poinsett a plan for an iron steamer for harbor and coast defense with the idea of putting this part of national defense under the control of the War Department; the present action of Congress in relation to a depot on the Mississippi [River] and to the defenses of the southern ports by steam vessels encourages Ericsson to revive his scheme; Ogden wants to ascertain Poinsett's reaction to the idea; he found no reference to the matter in the files of the War Office, the Engineering Department, or the Ordnance Department; Colonel [George] Bomford recalls presenting the matter to Poinsett and making a report on it but he doesn't know what happened to the report; he [Bomford] claims to be the originator of the plan; Ogden favors the plan, and wants to protect Ericsson's interests; asks if Poinsett recalls the presentation of the report and his reaction to it.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

497. 1844, Feb. FRANCIS MARKOE, JR., Corresponding Secretary National Institute, Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, President of the Nat[ional] Inst[itute]

The committee of the National Institute, consisting of J[ohn] C. Spencer, J[oseph] R. Ingersoll, W[illiant] C. Preston, A[bbot] Lawrence, R[obert] J. Walker, R[ufus] Choate, W[illiam] C. Rives, and A[lexander] D. Bache, has arranged a meeting [of the National Institute] for April, and has instructed Markoe to ask Poinsett to address that meeting; if he consents, and names the subject of his paper, the committee will send him a formal invitation; the circular of the committee will soon be sent out to colleges and societies, which will be asked to send representatives to the meeting.

L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

498. 1844, Mar. 4. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To SILAS WRIGHT, [Jr., Washington, D. C.]

Acknowledges letter of February 26; he is sorry that the careless manner of communicating the matter concerning Mr. [Martin] Van Buren has caused Wright so much trouble; the document is at his [Poinsett's] summer residence, so he can speak only from memory; the report he referred to was made in 1841 by the House Committee on Accounts; he has heard from Mr. [John T.] Cochrane, chief clerk in the war office during Van Buren's term, that an investigation of Mr. [Carey A.] Harris' conduct and the causes of his leaving his office were in progress; according to Cochrane, Mr. Porter's letter to

Harris and other papers in the case were not on file in the War Office; Cochrane advised that these papers be returned, if by chance Major [Samuel] Cooper had put them with Poinsett's private papers; he [Poinsett] thinks Wright's plan for bringing the matter before the public the best possible one; his object in sending the papers was the vindication of Mr. Van Buren from unjust and unfounded charges; the committee intended to censure Van Buren for neglect of his duty in not having dismissed Harris earlier, and in not having conducted a more thorough investigation of him; Mrs. Poinsett unites with him in sending regards to the Wrights.

Cy. S. [Document damaged by fire]. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.
Attached to letter from Wright to Poinsett; *see* entry 495.

**499. 1844, Mar. 8. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.**

He has set the ball in motion for [Martin] Van Buren's cause in South Carolina, and has aroused the young men of the state to activity; one of the latter has written to Poinsett telling him of the many rumors afloat that Van Buren will withdraw in favor of [Lewis] Cass even after being nominated in convention; these rumors must be contradicted by some authorized group either at Washington [D. C.] or at New York [N. Y.]; Poinsett wants Kemble to do it immediately; he regrets that he can't mingle in the fight; [John C.] Calhoun's friends wish to prevent South Carolina from voting, and the Whigs urge the same course; they cannot gain the vote of the state, and want to deprive the Van Buren party of it; Calhoun is mortified at the construction his friends put on his letter; he expected they would hold him up as a martyr to the abstract principle of the rights of the minority and continue to regard him as a candidate; Poinsett wants to attack him, impolitic though it would be.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

**500. 1844, May 23. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.].
To GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Baltimore, Md.**

The southern Democrats despair at the disunion in the states and in the party; if the South "cannot be roused to see the question in its true light we are on the eve of a revolution which must inevitably end in the destruction of those peculiar interests which have been so insidiously appealed to in order to produce this pernicious result. Under the sign of Democracy the Sacred principles of the constitution will protect our rights of property. On that alone this security depends, not on the forbearance of England, nor on the annexation of Texas"; Democracy alone can save the rights

guaranteed by the constitution, and yet "our rapacious and ambitious countrymen would divide the party on any issue in order to promote their own views"; Mr. [Franklin H.] Elmore and Mr. [Francis W.] Pickens have prevented the Democracy of South Carolina from being represented in the Democratic convention; they will go there themselves to unite with any section of the party "that may be induced to secede and nominate [John] Tyler or some other contemptible candidate . . . God preserve the Country from the curse of having too ambitious and unscrupulous sons."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

501. 1844, June 18. J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his letters from Baltimore [Md.]; he regrets that it was necessary to frustrate the will of the party by rejecting the nominations of Mr. [Martin] Van Buren; he understands the motive, but doubts the policy of winning union and peace at such a cost; if the rule established then holds for the future, the people will have no voice in the nomination and "our rulers will be inferior men or artful intriguers, or rather inferior men in the hands of artful demagogues. I suppose Mr. [John C.] Calhoun's adherents were on the watch . . . to nominate him by a fragment if the two-thirds rule did not prevail, but would it not have been better to have lopped off this corrupt limb at once than keep it on to taint the whole mass?"; troubles will begin after the election, unless [James K.] Polk is elected and submits to the dictates of those men or of their leader [Calhoun]; if [Henry] Clay is elected, there will be open war against the administration and probably against the Union; he [Poinsett] can support neither the Whigs nor the Democrats; invites Kemble to visit them this summer; he and Mrs. Poinsett send regards.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

502. 1844, June 26. [J. R. POINSETT, Greenville], S. C. To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

Acknowledges her letter of March; he sent her brother Timothy [Tyrrell] a small box of minerals and a box of books; the latter "may amuse you as a faithful representation of the Aborigines of our forests who are fast fading away before the advance of Civilization, I wish I could say of refinement, but our hardy pioneers are not much more refined than the savages they dispossess," though enterprising and industrious; no true account of the pioneers has yet been written; Count [Isidore] Lo[c]wenstein of Vienna [Austria] passed through the United States on his way to Mexico, the Sandwich Islands, and China; he said that travellers judged the whole Amer-

ican people by the rude manners of the common people; Poinsett agrees that it isn't comfortable for a foreigner to have to associate with people of vulgar manners when travelling through America, but a great deal of good feeling exists in the midst of these vulgar manners; if the manner in which "your sex are treated denotes refinement my Countrymen bear off the palm over even the polished Frenchmen. . . . That is something in favor of us vulgar Americans!"; he envies her brother Timothy his convalescence, as he has been ill too; "we know a great deal about Homeopathy, indeed our Communications are so rapid that every fashion in dress or medicine reaches us instanter . . . To prescribe for every disease is the besetting sin of the English and Americans, and it is better to give and to take globules and infinitesimal doses than to swallow yourself or to cause others to swallow huge doses of Mineral poisons"; he did not see [Charles] Dickens, and is glad of it.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 4 pp. 32 cm. x 19.5 cm.

503. 1844, June 29. M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Lindenwald, [Columbia Co., N. Y.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C.

Acknowledges the letter from him and Mrs. Poinsett; he had written to them a few days before he received their letter; Poinsett's observations on the convention proceedings at Baltimore [Md.] are obliging and just, but he [Van Buren] will make no comment, either in private or in public letters; the results of the convention have not impaired his personal happiness, and, to quote Colonel [Thomas H.] Benton, those who hatched the intrigue have been its first and principal victims; the people would have revolted against the nomination of "either of them"; he believes the [James K. Polk] ticket will succeed in the election; [Silas] Wright [Jr.] has probably written to Poinsett from Albany [N. Y.]; that remarkable man [Wright] has extraordinary virtues—"if the Government of the world was presented to him he would not accept it, if by doing so, he would compromise a single obligation of private friendship or public duty"; he wishes that he and Mrs. Poinsett could see Lindenwald now, for it is very beautiful; John [Van Buren] has returned from Madeira [island in the Atlantic, belonging to Portugal] with his sick wife [nee Elizabeth Vanderpoel]; Smith [T. Van Buren] is very well, and his wife [nee Ellen James] has just presented Van Buren with another granddaughter [Ellen James Van Buren]; the Major [Abraham Van Buren] and his wife [nee Angelica Singleton] and child are well and wish to be remembered to Poinsett, as does Martin [Van Buren, Jr.]; he has astonished his neighbors by his successful use of ashes, but is now using lime because he can't get enough of the former; while political intrigues were going on,

he [Van Buren] was building a cottage for his farmer; Mrs. Poinsett will like it; he has also built a large barn; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett and to Mr. and Mrs. [Julius] Pringle and his goddaughter; he has no need now to use Romsun's [?] invention, if the lime works out as well as the ashes did.

A. L. S. 7 pp. 26.5 cm. x 21 cm.

504. 1844, July 1. J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his letter of June 16; the greatest evil would have been the success of the factious proceedings of the Southern demagogues; the nomination [of James K. Polk] must be supported; after the election is over, the difficulty of purifying the Democratic party of its dross will have to be considered; the convention compromise was a mistake, because when the battle is fought again, it will be at a disadvantage; if Mr. [Henry] Clay is elected, "our chivalry will talk of disunion or Texas—Disunion or low Tariff—Disunion or subscription to our Theory that slavery is a blessing!"; there is a Whig party in the South which must battle for Clay, and their principles are not his [Poinsett's]; most of the South Carolina Whigs were Union men; in Georgia the former nullifiers are Whigs; Mr. [Martin] Van Buren has placed himself above his unworthy opponents; Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.] has amazed all the politicians in the South by his conduct—"what a painful contrast between New York and other states which I should blush to name"; he [Poinsett] never trusted [William H.] Roane; Mr. Wright and Mr. [Francis P.] Blair determined not to publish Poinsett's Texas letter so as not to bring him into conflict with [John C.] Calhoun, with whom he disagrees on the policy of Great Britain; Blair has written unwisely on the views and policies of foreign government; General [Waddy] Thompson praised Poinsett's conduct in Mexico at a public dinner given to him at Columbia [S. C.]; he [Poinsett] has always opposed English influence; "Calhoun bamboozled Blair about . . . Texas . . . and yet he goes on talking like an ass . . . [Thomas H.] Benton . . . talks sense about Texas"; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

505. 1844, July 8. J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, [S. C.]. To HENRY D. GILPIN, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. [Martin] Van Buren has told him that he [Gilpin] went to Lindenwald [Columbus Co., N. Y.] after the Baltimore [Md.] convention; [Gouverneur] Kemble kept him [Poinsett] informed of the progress of the intrigues there; he agrees with his New York friends that "anything was better than permitting this foul conspiracy to

. . . benefit . . . the bad men who conceived it"; he had rounded up a group of talented young men in South Carolina to work for Van Buren had he been nominated, and this group might have been successful in contending against the machinations of [John C.] Calhoun's fragment of the convention; South Carolina will support the Democratic ticket with a show of willingness; the new administration, whether Democratic or Whig, will have trouble in the South; if it is Democratic, [James K.] Polk will have to conciliate Calhoun at any cost; if [Henry] Clay is elected, the Union will be in danger; the Democratic trouble-makers will now enter the state [of South Carolina] legislature, with mischievous intent; it is fortunate for the country that the Whig party in the South will fight the Calhoun faction; the intrigues of the latter should be exposed to the public; Calhoun will "rule or destroy" any party to which he belongs, so the Northern Democrats must either crush him or submit to him; he is "an incubus on his own State, compelling all the young and ambitious to embrace his doctrines and aid his mad schemes, or to remain in obscurity"; he [Poinsett] must stay in South Carolina to oppose the disorganizing acts of the majority; Mrs. Poinsett joins with him in sending regards to him and Mrs. Gilpin.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm.'x 20 cm.

506. 1844, Oct. 10. [MAJOR] LEWIS G. DE RUSSY, Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C.

He is writing in reference to the loss sustained by the Indian Department of some of the funds entrusted to him for transportation to Arkansas in December, 1837; he wants Poinsett to make a statement of the facts in the case, including De Russy's original objections to carrying the money, and the testimony of Colonel [Thomas H.] Lockett, Colonel [W.] Nic[h]ols, Mr. [J. J.] Sandford [Sanford], Major [Russell B.?] Hyde, Captain [David] Rudd, etc., as well as Poinsett's assurance to De Russy at the time that the amount lost should not be charged against him; a committee of the next Congress will consider the case; in December, 1837, he [De Russy] was about to leave Washington [D. C.] with funds to pay troops in Louisiana and Arkansas, when he was informed by the Secretary [of War, Poinsett] that he was to convey to Lieutenant [Captain R. D. C.] Collins at Little Rock, Arkansas, \$150,000 in specie for Indian disbursements; he suggested that the additional risk was too great for him to take, and the Secretary [Poinsett] said that he was cognizant of that, and would arrange some other method of transportation if possible; but in a few days he was ordered to take the funds to Arkansas; in the accident he saved all that could be saved of the government funds; he hopes that Poinsett can assist him in this matter.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20.5 cm.

507. 1844, Oct. 16. L. TRUSSELL, master [of the *Columbia*], Smyrna, [Asia Minor]. To D. W. OFFLEY, [Smyrna, Asia Minor]

Receipt for three big-tailed Caramanian sheep to be taken by the bark *Columbia* to Philadelphia [Pa.] and delivered to Mr. J. H. Offley upon his payment of thirty dollars freight charges.

Cy. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Attached to letter from J. H. Offley to Poinsett; see entry 515.

508. 1844, Oct. 18. D. W. OFFLEY, [Smyrna, Asia Minor]. To J. H. OFFLEY, [Philadelphia, Pa.]

The bark [*Columbia*] will sail on October 20; he is sending one ram and two ewes of the best Caramanian breed, and he hopes Mr. [J. R.] Poinsett will be satisfied.

Cy. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Extract from a letter, attached to letter from J. H. Offley to Poinsett; see entry 515.

509. 1844, Nov. 5. T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD, [Commissioner of Indian Affairs, War Department], Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Acknowledges his letter of October 28 on the subject of Major [Lewis G.] De Russy's responsibility and his desire to be relieved of it; there can be little doubt that De Russy is entitled to a release; he is sending copies of papers relating to the subject, and is returning De Russy's letter; the Democrats were successful in the Presidential election in Pennsylvania, but lost Maryland and Ohio; they expect to carry New York; Mr. [James K.] Polk will be elected by a large electoral majority; Mr. [Henry] Clay will carry nothing south of Washington [D. C.] except Kentucky and perhaps North Carolina; he [Crawford] would have called on General [Nathan] Towson, except that Major D[e Russy] said that Towson would write to Poinsett.

A. L. S. 1 p. 24.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

510. 1844, Nov. 5. T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD, [Commissioner of Indian Affairs], War Department, [Washington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

He is sending copies of the papers which have a bearing on Major [Lewis G.] De Russy's case involving the loss of from \$9,000 to \$10,000 of government funds in December, 1837, in the explosion of the boilers of the Steamer *Black Hawk*.

L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

511. 1844, Nov. 12. J. R. POINSETT, Columbia, [S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his last letter; they are detained at Columbia [S. C.] through Mrs. Poinsett's illness; the Democrats have been successful; he wrote to Mr. [Martin] Van Buren asking him to visit the Poinsetts on the Peedee [near Georgetown, S. C.] this winter and to bring Kemble along; he agrees with Kemble on the probable result of Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.] serving out his term as governor [of New York], but he [Wright] ought to be made Secretary of the Treasury; Mr. [John C.] Calhoun's friends have been stirring up trouble in South Carolina, while "he [Calhoun] who really threw the first stone . . . hides his hand. He has placed them in an attitude to give trouble and told them to wait and watch the first movements of the successful party"; if Calhoun approves the new cabinet, South Carolina will have peace, but the administration and the Democratic party will be harassed and ruined; he [Poinsett] spent the summer with General Waddy Thompson, who has praised Poinsett's conduct abroad and at home; he [Thompson] has had a sanguine letter from Mr. [John J.] Crittenden full of certainty of a Whig success; Thompson will probably remove to Florida; they [the Poinsetts] will be at Georgetown in a week or ten days.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

512. 1844, Nov. 12. GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Greenville C[ourt] H[ouse], S. C.

The Democrats have carried New York State; Mr. [James K.] Polk will have about 5,000 majority and Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.] about 10,000 majority; the latter's popularity was responsible for this success; though he [Kemble] was chosen one of the presidents of the state gathering at Albany [N. Y.], and of the convention at Newburgh [N. Y.] and presided at the county meeting, still he was so inactive in the campaign that he was accused of going over to [Henry] Clay; from contact Kemble had with Polk while the latter was Speaker of the House, Kemble thinks he is talented, industrious, and not lacking in decision of character, but that he is too much of a party politician, narrow-minded and prejudiced; he is not a leader; if he plays with [John C.] Calhoun, he will antagonize the North and East, and if he conciliates the North by adopting a middle way, Calhoun will fight him; the people distrust the Southern politicians since the Baltimore [Md.] convention, and feel that the North and the West must combine and let the South look out for itself; this would create a sectional party more dangerous to the Union than nullification, and would lead the way to the object Calhoun has

wanted to attain, a Southern coalition; Polk will stand between these two divisions of the Democratic Party; it is fortunate that Ohio and North Carolina have gone Whig, and that Georgia and Tennessee may follow suit, for the sectional divisions of the country should be broken up as much as possible; the election killed the Whig Party, which will come out under a new name, the Native American, gathering under its wings the rowdies of New York [N. Y.] and Philadelphia [Pa.]; they are boosting General [Winfield] Scott for the next election, and [Thomas] Bennett says that Scott will be elected if he holds his tongue; Mr. Wright will probably be the next candidate for the Democratic Party; he [Kemble] thanks Poinsett for the agricultural address; he is amused by the nullifiers who come to the North, spend their thousands, complain about the poverty of South Carolina, and forget that without industry and economy the richest land produces nothing; somebody has sent him a letter from Mr. [Langdon] Cheeves [Cheves] to the electors of South Carolina, written in a bad spirit and based on false premises; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

513. 1844, Nov. 14. [GEN.] N[ATHAN] TOWSON, Paymaster General, Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

He saw Major [Lewis G.] De Russy after receiving Poinsett's letter of October 28, and advised him to send Poinsett copies of the papers in the Indian Bureau relating to the loss of Indian funds, by the explosion of the steamer [*Black Hawk*]; in the Paymaster General's office there is only a copy of Towson's letter to Mr. [T. Hartley] Crawford transmitting to him certain papers of which the enclosed is a copy; De Russy read Towson a copy of his letter to Poinsett, which is a correct statement of the facts, as far as Towson knows; he [Towson] remembers that De Russy was reluctant to take charge of the Indian funds.

L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

514. 1844, Nov. 22. GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Acknowledges his letter of November 13 written from Columbia [S. C.]; he is sorry that Mrs. Poinsett has been ill; he is pleased that an understanding seems to exist between [John C.] Calhoun and [James K.] Polk; he believes the latter, coming as he does from a slave-holding state, will strive to conciliate the Democrats of the North; without them he would probably be in the Senate; Northern

men will accordingly constitute the strength of his Cabinet, and he will have to offer Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.] a seat, for to him he owes his elevation to the presidency; he cannot long retain both Calhoun and Wright in the Cabinet; he [Kemble] will try to visit the Peedee in February [1845], but he must be in Albany [N. Y.] in January to renew the foundry's charter; asks which is the best way to come, in case he is able to; General Waddy Thompson is disappointed in the Whig defeat; aside from politics, he is a man of integrity and amiability; Kemble was sorry not to see him on his visit to the North; "having met Mrs. Thompson at West Point [N. Y.], I requested her to say so . . . I wanted to be civil to her, but she was so sour upon me, that I was obliged to desist"; he has not seen Mr. [Martin] Van Buren since the agricultural fair at Pokeepsie [Poughkeepsie, N. Y.] in September; at that time he promised to visit Kemble with Colonel [Richard] Singleton, who is a good specimen of a Southern gentleman; Martin [Van Buren, Jr.] dined recently with [James K.] Paulding, and they were all well then; but John [Van Buren] lost his wife [nee Elizabeth Vanderpoel] since then; she died suddenly at Albany [N. Y.]; he and his family are all well, and Mary's [Mary Kemble, wife of Robert P. Parrott] hand is improved; she sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

515. 1844, Nov. 25. J. H. OFFLEY, Georgetown, [S. C.].
To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

His brother [D. W. Offley] has shipped the sheep for Philadelphia [Pa.] where they will arrive about December 20 or 25; he suggests that Poinsett make arrangements with the owners of the packets which run from Philadelphia to Charleston [S. C.] to have the sheep sent to the latter place; if there is no packet from Philadelphia to Charleston, the sheep will have to be sent to Baltimore [Md.] or New York [N. Y.] and shipped from there; he [Offley] must have the name of the person to whom he must endorse the Captain's [L. Trussell's] receipt; acknowledges Poinsett's last letter, and hopes it will aid him in bettering himself next March; his present salary is insufficient for his needs; he intends to prepare for one of the positions as paymaster in the army; if Mr. [C. C.] Cambreleng should go to the Senate, he will use his influence for Offley with Mr. [James K.] Polk; Offley's father did so much for the government without compensation that "something more than \$1,400 per year might be done for one of his family. General [Andrew] Jackson once expressed himself so to my brother [D. W. Offley], who however was then too profitably engaged with me in com[merce] to wish for any government employ"; asks Poinsett to use his influence with Mr. Polk for Offley; he could get the recommendations of some of the first mer-

chants of Philadelphia [his home] for the position of surveyor in the customs house; he is devoted to the Democratic cause, and he has had much mercantile experience.

Attached are copies of Captain L. Trussell's receipt for the sheep and of an extract from D. W. Offley's letter to J. H. Offley, made by J. H. Offley. *See* entries 507, 508.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

516. 1844, Dec. 6. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges both letters written in November; to visit them Kemble must go to Charleston [S. C.] and then "by steam or stage" to Georgetown [S. C.] where Poinsett will meet him; at Charleston he is to put himself "under the care of our friend [John] Campbell who will protect you from Nullifiers and Calhounites"; it is dangerous to admit into the Cabinet any avowed or ascertained candidate for the succession; Mr. [Martin] Van Buren "exact[ed] a promise from us that if either of us should be placed in such a position before the expiration of his term we would retire from the Cabinet"; the conduct of rival factions under Mr. [James] Monroe with Mr. [William H.] Crawford and Mr. [John C.] Calhoun in the Cabinet makes Poinsett fearful of the results if either or both the Southern and Northern candidates for the presidency are called into Mr. [James K.] Polk's Cabinet; on the former occasion a small fragment of the Democracy under Mr. [Henry] Clay gave the victory to the Federalists; there is greater danger in retaining Mr. Calhoun than in admitting Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.] into the Cabinet, though both would be wrong; Poinsett advised Monroe to dismiss both aspirants to the presidency from his Cabinet, but "he wanted energy and decision of character for such a measure—so he temporised with both and the Federal party triumphed over us . . . having an avowed candidate for the Presidency in the Cabinet . . . would at once array the factions against each other"; Mr. Van Buren recalled the situation of 1824 and wished to avert such a catastrophe.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

517. 1844, Dec. 19. LEA & BLANCHARD, Philadelphia, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C.

At the request of Captain [Charles] Wilkes they have sent the three first volumes and the atlas of the *Narrative of the Exploring Expedition*¹⁰ to Mr. W. H. Bennett, bookseller of Charleston [S. C.];

¹⁰ Charles Wilkes, *Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842* (5 vols. and atlas, Philadelphia, 1845).

the book is very well executed; ask Poinsett to write a review of the book for the *Southern Review*, published in Charleston, and a notice of it for the *Southern Literary Messenger*, published in Richmond [Va.]; the last two volumes will be sent as soon as they have been prepared.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

518. 1844, Dec. 27. M[ARTIN] VAN BUREN, Lindenwald, [Columbia Co., N. Y.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]

Acknowledges his letter with the invitation to visit him and Mrs. Poinsett; he cannot accept, for if he ever does come South again, it won't be for years; invites them to visit him next summer; he has heard from [James K.] Paulding, who has decided to become a farmer; no place can be obtained near Tarrytown [N. Y.] so Van Buren hopes to get him into his neighborhood; it would be splendid if Mr. and Mrs. Poinsett also settled in New York; the contest in the election was made closer than he suspected it would be "by the extraordinary and culpable means resorted to by the Whigs"; Democratic majority in New York State is 20,000, and if they fall short of this, it is effected by improper means; South Carolina is likely to become the seat of new political schisms; "we are apparently upon the eve of a bloody insurrection by the Tenants ag[ains]t their Landlords, although I have strong hopes that the matter will be suppressed without much more bloodshed"; vigorous steps have been taken in Columbia County [N. Y.]; his farming goes on well; he has bought more land and put up some new buildings; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett and to Mr. and Mrs. [Julius] Pringle.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

519. 1844, Dec. 28. [COL.] J[OHN] ABERT, [Washington, D. C.]. To [J. R.] POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]

Acknowledges his letter; he and [Francis] Markoe [Jr.] do not like [Senator Benjamin] Tappan's bill, for Tappan is hostile to the [National] Institute, and the bill would mean its death; urges Poinsett to read [Peter S.] Du Ponceau's letter, which they republished recently; no leading man will take an active part in anything but politics; they wish Poinsett was at Washington [D. C.]; it is supposed that Tappan has selfish views in his bill, to have himself placed at the head of the Smithsonian; he leaves the Senate on March 4 [1845] so would be free to direct the Smithsonian; Abert believes the bill will pass; their collection is valuable and extensive, but their finances are in a desperate situation; [Alexandre] Vattemar[e] has sent many

valuable boxes on his system of international exchanges; he [Abert] sends a copy of his last annual report; he and Markoe send regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 30.5 cm. x 20 cm.

520. 1845, Feb. 8. [CAPT.] JOHN SANDERS, Pittsburgh, [Pa.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]

"You identified me with the origin of the suggestion for introducing the western river-marine into the combination for the defence of the Gulf of Mexico. I have prepared a short pamphlet presenting the facts of the case. Do me the favor to receive the copy of it which I send you. Every day renders this subject a matter of more engrossing interest to the western people. I . . . prize the merit you . . . awarded to me as the highest, not won on the battle field, which an officer can bear."

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

521. 1845, Feb. 24. J. R. P[OINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.]. To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

He has failed to write lately because of his activity in the recent presidential election, which his party, the Democratic, won; one must be a Democrat to be loyal to the Constitution of the United States; if Poinsett were English he would defend the Crown with the same zeal with which he upholds American democratic institutions; he is still living in the country, and in the spring will go to Greenville [South Carolina]; he differs with the new administration on the subject of the annexation of Texas or any other portion of the globe; "and I differ from my friends in their fears of Great Britain acquiring an influence in that new country"; one of the greatest improvements of modern times is the substitution of fair dealing in diplomatic relations for deceit and chicanery; "notwithstanding the folly and bad taste of our present foreign secretary [Secretary of State, John C. Calhoun], we shall scramble through the thorns which beset our path without being badly scratched as we should be if we were to quarrel with you and Mexico"; he [Poinsett] has suffered for many months with inflammation of the eyes; in the evening he cannot read or write at all, and depends upon Mrs. Poinsett for entertainment; he believes the general physical system is at fault when one of the functions goes wrong, so he is trying to cure the eye trouble by diet and exercise; his four years in the cabinet deranged his system; she [Francis Tyrrell] asked him what he thought of Puseyism, and told him that the learned Doctor [Edward B. Pusey] had moved into her neighborhood; he [Poinsett] is sorry that Pusey has promulgated his doctrines [Oxford Movement], for in the United States the Church

of England is weak, and Puseyism will tend to strengthen the already strong Roman Catholic Church; the old Puritans are Independents, the most numerous sect after the Baptists, and they called the Episcopalians Romanists before Dr. Pusey wrote his sermon; Pusey has harmed the Protestant Episcopal church in America by dividing it; "in religious quarrels the parties are inveterate. Clergymen are good haters"; he [Poinsett] has been reading about the schools of Scotland and Prussia, but wants information about them from her; there is a free school system in South Carolina which does not work well, and he wants to give it a better direction; the Northern states do better, but are not up to the Scotch and the Germans; asks her to tell him about her school and its management; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 6 pp. 31.5 cm. x 19.5 cm.

522. 1845, Feb. 25. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, [Washington, D. C.]

His letter announcing that he would visit them on the Peedee [River] was delayed so long, that they decided it was useless to write to him at Washington [D. C.]; they awaited the promised letter from Charleston [S. C.], and told Julius Pringle, who was there for the races, to look out for Kemble; he [Poinsett] now supposes that Kemble will stay to witness the inauguration [of James K. Polk]; they want him to follow out his intention of visiting them; they are eager for news of New York and Washington; no rumors about Polk's cabinet can be relied upon; upon its composition depends the continuance of the Democratic ascendancy.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

523. 1845, Mar. 20. JO[H]N CARROLL WALSH, "The Mound," Harford Co., Md. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Asks Poinsett to write a letter in his favor to R[obert] J. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury, from whom Walsh wishes to secure some appointment; when Poinsett was Secretary of War, he offered Walsh a commission in the Army, which he had to decline because he had enlisted in another service.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 19.5 cm.

524. 1845, Mar. 28. [REV.] J. L. REYNOLDS, Charleston, S. C. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Mr. [James D. B.] De Bow is absent from Charleston [S. C.], so he [Reynolds] is replying to Poinsett's inquiries; he has not been able to ascertain the facts relating to the affair of Comm. [Samuel C.]

Reid; the facts relating to Comm. [John] Downes are as follows: the ship *Friendship*, Captain Charles M. Endicott, of Salem, Mass[achusetts], was captured by the Malays on February 7, 1831, at the port of Quallah Battoo, in Achin [Sumatra, Malay Archipelago], when Captain Endicott and Mr. Barry, second mate, with four of the crew were ashore; the Malays were received as traders on the ship, where they fell on the unsuspecting crew, killed some and wounded others; Captain Endicott and his men escaped to Muckie, about 25 miles away; they returned with three American vessels and recaptured the *Friendship*, which the Malays had run into the coral shoals, and from which they had stolen all valuables; they carried off \$12,000 in specie, twelve chests of opium, the ship's papers, etc., leaving only the paper which Captain E[ndicott] had bought from them; the news of this reached America just as the frigate *Potomac* had been put in commission, in May, 1831, and ordered to New York [N. Y.] to take Martin Van Buren to England; General [Andrew] Jackson, in response to an appeal for protection against the Malays along the coast of Sumatra, changed the destination of the *Potomac* and ordered her to Sumatra; the town of Quallah Battoo was attacked on February 6, 1832 by Lieutenant [Irvine] Shubrick and his men, most of the forts were destroyed by fire, and sixty Malays were killed; the Americans lost one sailor and one marine; this account is abridged from [Francis] Warriner's *Cruise of the Potomac* (New York, 1835); he [Reynolds] can find no account of the adventures of Captain Ross subsequent to 1833.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

525. 1845, Apr. 10. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He and Mrs. Poinsett were disappointed at Kemble's failure to visit them, but they are anticipating his promised visit; a steamer running between New York [N. Y.] and Charleston [S. C.] would be convenient and profitable; the Nashville [Tenn.] *Union* denies that the incumbent [James K. Polk] will run again for President; if he does, the Democrats will be defeated, and the country will suffer from four years of Whig rule; Mr. [Azariah C.] Flagg would have made an excellent Secretary of the Treasury; his report as comptroller of the state [of New York] shows he is a master of finance; [George] Bancroft would have done better as Secretary of the Treasury than where he is [Secretary of the Navy], for army officers are easier to rule than navy officers; asks Kemble what he thinks of the narrative of the Exploring Expedition;¹¹ wants Kemble to recommend "my ancient clerk [J. H.] Offley to the Secretary of War [William L. Marcy]. He is clever and might be made very useful. . . .

¹¹ Charles Wilkes, *op. cit.*

His long experience and business habits would render him particularly useful to a new Secretary"; he [Poinsett] is not surprised at Kemble's news of Polk; "our western brethren are shrewd and think no harm of a *suppressio veri*. The whole truth is not necessary provided they do not tell what is untrue"; the conduct of the party leaders since the convention at Baltimore [Md.] has been tricky and unworthy of Democracy; they [he and Mrs. Poinsett] would like to visit the North this year to see Kemble and Mr. [Martin] Van Buren and Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.], and Mrs. Poinsett wants to see Kemble's sister, but it will be impossible; it has been an early but a cold spring, with ice in April; the [Charleston, S. C.] *Mercury*, Mr. [John C.] Calhoun's organ, broke ground against the administration but is now silent; his friends are awaiting a more propitious moment for attack; asks Kemble to have Mr. Harmony import a cask of Manzanilla [Spain] sherry, and send it to Messrs. Robertson & Blacklock in Charleston; it is for Mr. [Ralph] Izard, [Julius] Pringle, and Poinsett; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

526. 1845, Apr. 18. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He has heard a rumor that General James Hamilton of South Carolina, now of Alabama, is to be sent to England as United States Minister Plenipotentiary; the Charleston [S. C.] Nullifiers were displeased that their idol J[ohn] C. Calhoun was not kept on as Secretary of State and that his friend [Franklin H.] Elmore was not appointed to the Treasury; [James K.] Polk is reported to have praised Calhoun's administration of the Department of State, but that he replaced him because he wanted no future presidential candidate in his cabinet; Calhoun supposed the same rule applied to the friends and supporters of such candidates, excluding Mr. Elmore; he declined the offer to go to England, and thus was asked by Polk if he and his friends would like the appointment of Elmore, [Francis W.] Pickens or General J[ames] Hamilton; the story goes that Calhoun selected Hamilton because of "his superior knowledge of all questions respecting our peculiar interests!"; Poinsett is afraid that this appointment will lower the standard set by United States diplomatic agents in the past, and is unwise in view of a possible war with England; Poinsett has heard that [Thomas] Ritchie is taking over the [Washington, D. C.] *Globe*, which will be the official organ; this is to be regretted, as Ritchie is a man of uncontrollable impulse; Kemble shall tell Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.] that he has a good friend [Poinsett] in South Carolina; he and Mrs. Poinsett will be in Charleston on May 10 en route to Greenville, S. C.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

527. 1845, June 30. JOHN L. MANNING, Columbia, [S. C.].
To J. R. POINSETT, Greenville C[ourt] H[ouse], S. C.

The citizens of Columbia [S. C.] have asked him [Manning] to give a funeral oration in the fall upon the late General [Andrew] Jackson; he knows little about Jackson's foreign policy, but feels that Poinsett is best qualified to give him some information on the subject; he and Mrs. Manning had hoped to see Mr. and Mrs. Poinsett at their place in the Sand Hills on their way up [to Greenville, S. C.]; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

528. 1845, July 5. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his letter announcing the arrival of the Manzanilla [sherry]; the directions to send the wine to Messrs. Robertson & Blacklock, Charleston, [S. C.], have been given to Kemble's brother [William Kemble]; they will pay Mr. Nath[anie]l Paulding's draft for the cost and charges, which will be defrayed by [Ralph] Izard, [Julius] Pringle, and Poinsett; [Louis] McLane is the least objectionable person the administration could have selected [as minister to England]; [Francis W.] Pickens was offered the post, injudiciously, but he discreetly refused it; notwithstanding [John C.] Calhoun's implied recommendation, the state [of South Carolina] owes Pickens a vote of thanks for his sound judgment in this matter; [William L.] Marcy is mistaken in attributing these refusals to Calhoun's sagacity, for Calhoun and his supporters are too conscious of their own ability to believe that they could get themselves into a situation from which they could not extricate themselves; a neighbor of Poinsett's made a speech for Pickens upon his presentation to the Queen [Victoria], which began "Born in a land of freedom, insensible to fear"; Poinsett wrote to [George] Bancroft recently to tell him that Calhoun's friends want no change in South Carolina, for they have decided to hold themselves aloof from the government, and not commit themselves until they knew what direction the administration will take, and that therefore the federal offices should be held by men who are firm defenders of the Democratic Party and of the Union; Poinsett expects no answer to this letter, but he has done his duty; there will soon be a rupture, unless there is a split between Kemble's section of the party and the administration, which might lead to an alliance of the latter with Calhoun; the situation now is so different from the time "when [Andrew] Jackson's vigorous hand held the reins and [Edward] Livingston's keen intellect directed the pen of government. . . . The old union party is dead and my frightful energy, as [William C.] Preston called it, departed"; sends his and Mrs. Poinsett's

sympathy to Kemble's brother William Kemble—"we are indeed sorry for your Brother's & sister's severe loss"; he and Mrs. Poinsett send regards to them, to Kemble, and to Mary [Kemble Parrott] and [Robert P.] Parrott.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

529. 1845, July 13. DAV[I]D K. WHITAKER, Charleston, [S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C.

He received yesterday the first part of Poinsett's second article on the Exploring Expedition, and it will be given to the printer tomorrow; he hopes Poinsett has been supplied with a copy of the July number of the [*Southern Quarterly*] *Review* which contains Poinsett's first article; if he wants any of his friends to have copies of the *Review*, he is to send a list of their names to Mr. Howe; Mr. [James D. B.] De Bow is absent, and he [Whitaker] is about to leave for the Virginia Springs, but the Rev. Dr. Lynch will correct the proof of Poinsett's article, which will be the leading article in the October issue.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

530. 1845, Aug. 11. M[ITCHELL] KING, Argyle, [N. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C.

Acknowledges copy of the address which Poinsett made to the citizens of Greenville [S. C.] on "The Life and Character of Andrew Jackson"; the speech is a portrait of a great man drawn by a great master and will in the future be regarded as a contemporary historical authority; Poinsett and Jackson will go down to posterity together; Poinsett's account of the extract from General [Manuel] Teran's report, and the knowledge of Mexico he showed, convince King that he [Poinsett] should devote his retirement as did the [Duc de] Sully of Henry IV [of France] to writing his memoirs; asks if Poinsett has a copy of the *S[outhern Quarterly] Review* which contains his article on [Charles] Wilkes' voyage [the Exploring Expedition]; asks if he can get to Henderson [N. C.] this autumn; it is cooler there than in South Carolina; the temperature in his house has not been higher than eighty-six degrees; Mrs. King joins him in sending regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 27.5 cm. x 21.5 cm.

531. 1845, Oct. 3. JOHN BELTON O'NEALL, Springfield, [Newberry, S. C.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Greenville Court House, S. C.

The people of Newberry [S. C.] have requested him to ask Poin-

sett to address them on the first Monday of November on the subject of the railroad [from Greenville, S. C.] to Col[umb]ia [S. C.]; he [O'Neill] will be absent from home at that time, and regrets that he cannot entertain Mr. and Mrs. Poinsett; his friends Colonel Fair and Tho[ma]s H. Pope will arrange for the address; Mrs. O'Neill's health is much improved from her summer's travel; she unites with him in sending regards to Mr. and Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

532. 1845, Oct. 26. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his letter giving an account of his trip to Washington [D. C.]; Poinsett feels that the policy of the administration is unwise in that it has failed to conciliate the South Carolina faction headed by [John C.] Calhoun, which is now showing fight; [Thomas] Ritchie is absurdly calling on the supporters of the [Charleston, S. C.] *Mercury* [Calhoun's organ] to put down the *Mercury's* attacks on the administration; Calhoun's party will develop their plans at the coming Memphis [Tenn.] convention; he is pleased to know that Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.] is upholding himself against the machinations of his opponents; he hopes that Kemble's venture will succeed—"I have faith in iron & Copper, none whatever in silver & gold"; encloses an advertisement from the N[ew] Y[ork] *Herald* of October 12, and asks Kemble to find out who inserted it; he [Poinsett] should have been informed of it before it appeared; his family left France before the revocation of the Edict of Nantz [Nantes, France] and he is the oldest representative of it in America; the name was originally spelled Poinset; they belonged to the industrial class, and he doubts if any member of the family had accumulated a large fortune; asks about Kemble's gardening and grape culture; he [Poinsett] grows figs by enclosing them in covered pens; if Kemble visits them [in Georgetown, S. C.] this winter, Mrs. Poinsett may be persuaded to return the visit; he is addressing the State Agricultural Society [of S. C.] in Columbia [S. C.] on November 27, so they will leave for the plantation early in December; he will use this occasion to work in some politics, so that his fellow citizens will not be so easily deceived again; he has been persuaded to assist in a railroad project [Greenville to Columbia] which is more rational than the Charleston [S. C.] to Cincinnati [Ohio] scheme; he sends Kemble account of the proceedings; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards to Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott and unites with Poinsett in greetings to all the family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

533. 1845, Nov. 17. F. T. PEET & HITCHCOCK, New York, [N. Y.]. To [W. C.] WATSON, [Greenville, S. C.]

The person who signs his name T. B., 79 William St., is Thomas Busing, a stationer; he says his wife is a direct heir of the old Huguenot Poinsett who came over [to America] at the time of the religious persecution; an advertisement was put in the New York *Herald* and in a Philadelphia paper between Sept[ember, 1842] and Mar[ch] 1843 calling for heirs of the Poinsett family to claim an inheritance of \$8,000,000, a property in cash being held by the French government for that family; Mr. Busing has not been able to find the advertisement in the time at his disposal; Joel R. Poinsett must be a descendant of the family; he could most efficiently obtain the facts from the government of France; Mr. Busing is afraid the time for claiming the inheritance has passed.

Copy made by Watson. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Attached to letter from Watson to Poinsett; *see* next entry.

534. 1845, Nov. 27. W. C. WATSON, Greenville, S. C. To [J. R.] POINSETT

He received a communication yesterday from his agent relative to advertisement signed T. B., 79 William Street; he has copied the letter for Poinsett.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Attached is copy of letter from F. T. Peet & Hitchcock to Watson, dated November 17, 1845; *see* preceding entry.

535. 1845, Dec. 14. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He will send Kemble a copy of his address at Columbia [S. C.] when it is published; he told a proverb, comparing the condition of Flanders with that of Sicily; they wanted to make him president of the South Carolina College; upon his refusal, they took [William C.] Preston; Mr. [John C.] Calhoun was elected to the Senate; it is rumored that he is pledged to renounce all pretensions to the presidency; his sincerity is doubted, for "his trimming speech at Memphis [Tenn.] did not exhibit symptoms of abnegation of office"; a resolution condemning his federal doctrines was tabled [by the legislature], and he is paramount in the state [of South Carolina]; the avowed object of his going to Washington is the advocacy of peaceful measures in regard to Oregon, but if there is war, and [James K.] Polk is sustained in his views on the matter, Calhoun must be held responsible for the calamity; Mr. [Martin] Van Buren would have maintained the peace and honor of the country; cabinet members and

those who rule the country should serve an apprenticeship abroad; Polk seems to be trying to build a personal party; in New York he courts the conservatives, but Poinsett thinks [Silas] Wright [Jr.] will be able to maintain himself against the opposition; time must be gained in order to acquire Oregon peacefully; bullying and fighting against the power of England will not avail; if war comes, the cotton-growing states would be driven to interfere with the monopolies of the Northern merchants; he is glad Kemble liked Coxe, "a good specimen of the mechanics belonging to my school of Southern politics and to the old Union party"; asks about the culture of grape vines and the results of his electric experiments, and the possibility of using the latter on grain-bearing plants; describes his methods of grain cultivation; thanks Kemble for inquiring about the "great estate in France"; Mr. Busing, a stationer in William St., says it is worth \$8,000,000; Kemble is to ask [Alphonse?] Pageot about it; Mr. B[using]'s relatives on his wife's side insist upon the reality of the thing; Poinsett had lost sight of this branch of the [Poinsett] family, which lived in Philadelphia [Pa.]; a Mr. Symonds, who married into the family, wrote to Poinsett in respect to the inheritance, saying that notice of it appeared in the Philadelphia papers; Poinsett doesn't believe there is such an inheritance in France; it would be welcome, for he lost much because of the drought; if there is war, he would like to be employed by his country; Mrs. Poinsett joins with him in sending regards to Kemble, Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott, and all the family; they visited [James K.] Paulding's place the last time they were in the North.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

536. 1846, Jan. 30. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He dined yesterday with the Agricultural Society; the Manzanilla [sherry] was so popular that he was asked to order another cask for Ralph Izard, one for Mr. R. F. W. Allston, and one for Mr. Daniel Blake; Mr. [Nathaniel] Paulding is to send them to Messrs. Robertson & Blacklock [Charleston, S. C.]; Poinsett is afraid the Oregon matter will end in war, and he believes United States is in the wrong; [James] Buchanan's argument, which is that of an ingenious lawyer, not of an accomplished statesman, may establish the title in Mr. [James K.] Polk's opinion, but the question must be settled by arbitration or compromise; war will not settle it; Emperor Alexander [I] of Russia suggested to Poinsett that Russia and the U[nited] States should divide the country [Oregon] between them and mutually guarantee these possessions against the claim of Great Britain; that was before the Peace [July, 1807] of Tilsit [E. Prussia], but the Russian policy is like the laws of the Medes and Persians, and

United States could still expect a favorable decision by Russia; wants Kemble to order him a fan for cleaning rice after it is threshed, from G. W. & I. S. Grant, near Junction P. O., Rensselaer County, New York; he will pay \$40 for it; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards; the Grants may draw for the fan on Messrs. R[obertson] & B[lacklock], Charleston [S. C.].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

537. 1846, Mar. 12. J. R. P[OINSETT], Georgetown, [S. C.].
To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

Acknowledges her letter of November [1845]; he fears war with Great Britain; United States is wrong in refusing to submit the Oregon question to arbitration; it is the most important question in the world since the overthrow of Napoleon; he has been harassed by drought and flood, which have ruined his crops; the anti-railroad arguments amused him; he helped promote a railroad traversing South Carolina from sea to mountains; the vast distances in America make railroads a necessity, and Americans are utilitarians; in England the surplus capital and increasing population causes such enterprises to be too frequently undertaken; he will continue trying to obtain Mr. [William] Wordsworth's book; he cares less "for the education of that class who are intended to make their way through the world by intellectual means, than that of the working classes, those who gain their daily bread by their daily labour. Everywhere this is of most importance but especially in a republic where the people elect the rulers and really govern the country. The Northern States such as Massachusetts and New York have been more successful than . . . the South. They possess greater wealth and I am constrained to add greater intelligence. Their free schools are on a liberal scale, extensive and well conducted. I have done my best to prevail upon our people to imitate them but so far unsuccessfully"; the Roman Catholics are making proselytes among presumably wise and learned men; Dr. [Edward B.] Pusey has created a schism in "our little church [Protestant Episcopal] which no time can heal and which will slowly but severely undermine and destroy it, we shall have every sect in America except Church of England and Protestants"; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards; Poinsett sends regards to her brother and sister.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 6 pp. 31 cm. x 20 cm.

538. 1846, Mar. 14. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Thanks him for the Washington [D. C.] news; the Oregon situation is a confused labyrinth, with [Edward A.] Hannegan sparring

with [William H.] Haywood [Jr.], and the Senator from Indiana [Hannegan] attacking the President [James K. Polk]; the gale three weeks ago has greatly damaged his [Poinsett's] property and crops, and that of others; the reconstruction will take a month; he encloses a friend's account of a fan [for cleaning rice] so that Kemble may make inquiries about it and compare it with [G. W. and I. S.] Grant's fan; he will profit by Kemble's account of grapevine culture; they [he and Mrs. Poinsett] were disappointed by Kemble's failure to visit them when he was in the South; Mrs. Poinsett unites with him in sending regards to him and to Mr. and Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott; the fan was imported by Messrs. Ingraham and Webb from the agricultural depository of Simeon Blunt, New York [N. Y.]; the maker's name is not known.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

539. 1846, Apr. 28. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

He will send him a copy of his discourse delivered in November [1845], which is now being published, though in a slovenly and imperfect form; they will soon leave [Georgetown] for the mountains, leaving the plantation in good order in spite of the February gale and the inclement weather since; he is planning a canal for facilitating his harvest, and a water-power threshing mill; the Messrs. [G. W. & I. S.] Grant will probably be able to make a fan suitable for rice; war with England or Mexico is still a possibility; the latter was not well treated by the United States in respect to the Texas claims; Sancho Panza's proverb "no hai Enemigo Chiquito" may be proved true if the United States unnecessarily provokes hostilities; he is glad to hear that the Lake Superior mineral region is being opened up, and hopes Kemble has a hand in it; he is sending all the information he has relative to "the old Huguenot" [Poinsett], and Kemble may give it to [Alphonse] Pageot; he has four plants from Colonel Perkins with which to begin his "grapery a la Kemble"; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

540. 1846, May 14. J[AMES] D. B. DE BOW, New Orleans,
[La.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT

He needs material for his *Review* [*Commercial Review of the South and West*] written by well known persons; asks Poinsett to contribute an article on "almost any subject"; his subscription list is increasing but he has had little literary assistance.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

541. 1846, May 25. J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C. To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

Acknowledges his letter received at Columbia, [S. C.] and the grape vines; they expect a plentiful fruit and grain harvest; the [South Carolina] legislature contributed \$500, following New York's example, towards the society which is publishing his address in its proceedings; the war with Mexico will involve the United States in difficulties in respect to European powers, who will resent being cut off from Mexican ports and from the exploitation of Mexico's resources; the blockade will be difficult to maintain in the winter; the monarchical party in Mexico and in all Spanish America will be strengthened by the war; he [Poinsett] has written to Senators [Lewis] Cass and [Thomas H.] Benton warning them against sending a volunteer force to invade Mexico; the accidental victory of San Jacinto [Texas] has blinded Americans to the fact that Mexico is warlike, if not military, and formidable in guerilla warfare; Poinsett reminded Cass and Benton of the surrender of [William Carr Viscount] Beresford [in 1806] and the discomfiture of the British troops under [Gen. John] Whitelocke [in 1807] by the rabble of Buenos Ayres [Argentina]; Mr. [William] Pitt's instructions to Whitelocke showed "the same presumptuous ignorance of the people and the obstacles to be encountered as the bravados at Washington [D. C.];" the French had heavy losses in Spain and Algeria; the only way to conquer Mexico is to follow the example of [Hernando] Cortez and capitalize on the dissensions within the country; the northern provinces are outraged at the conduct of the central government; he wants Kemble to communicate with Mr. [John A.] Dix about the folly of sending volunteers to Mexico; if no understanding with Chihuahua, Zacatecas, and Durango is made, and Mexico is to be invaded, it would be best to enter by Alvarado, near Vera Cruz, from which the approach [to Mexico City] is easier; General [Jean Victor] Moreau told Poinsett that "when he determined to retreat through the heart of Germany he was certain that he could have penetrated to Vienna [Austria], but equally so that he should never have got back"; Mrs. P[oinsett] sends her love to the family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 28 cm. x 21 cm.

542. 1846, June 10. BENJ. HUGER, Captain of Ordnance, Fort Monroe, [Va.]

Report entitled "Description of Fuzes proposed for Field Shells & Spherical Case shot, with Result of Experiments made with them at Fort Monroe Arsenal"; the report includes two pages of hand

drawn diagrams of cross-sections and elevations of both shells and plugs.

A. D. S. 10 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

543. 1846, June 26. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

General [Winfield] Scott might have followed up his glorious victory of the 8th and 9th [of May] with the destruction of the whole retreating army, if Congress had given the army sufficient artillery; [Captain James] Duncan deserved credit for the part he played; Poinsett is gratified that he was the one who introduced cavalry and light artillery drill at West Point for their usefulness has been demonstrated in the Mexican War; Kemble shall tell [Martin] Van Buren to credit his administration with this; Mr. [William L.] Marcy [Secretary of War] is incorrectly given credit for originating the bill for light artillery; the war will at least call public attention to the needs of the Army; if the troops at Palo Alto [Texas] had been replaced by twice as many militia, the Mexicans would have won; yet volunteers are to be sent to Mexico, a country whose peculiarities demand a regular army of trained troops; an English offer to mediate would prevent a long, hazardous war; there may be difficulties with European nations which have interests in Mexico; the President [James K. Polk] seems to think he can take and hold California as indemnity for the war expenses, which means no peace; if the war continues, the European soldiers of fortune will migrate to Mexico; Poinsett is tired of being governed by third rate men as presumptuous as they are ignorant; "I knew that we would lose character as a party & as a nation the moment Mr. [John C.] Calhoun's maneuvers succeeded at the Baltimore [Md.] convention"; Poinsett had judged Polk's stupidity, weakness, and folly when he was Speaker of the House; Polk did not believe war would come if the United States took possession of the territory claimed; Poinsett congratulates Kemble and the country on the termination of the Oregon affair and on Mr. [William] Allen's resignation as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; he would suggest "a residence in Europe for the malady that afflicts the 54-40-ites but that General [Lewis] Cass is of the number—Lieber Gott! what ails the man? . . . [Thomas H.] Benton is a fine fellow, is he not?"; Marcy has done wisely in restoring Major [Samuel] Cooper to his former position in the War Office, though it has caused General Scott to complain against the Department; Poinsett's grain and grapes are being ruined by excessive rain, even one variety of the latter sent him by Mr. [Andrew J.] Downing; asks Kemble how he protects his fig trees; he [Poinsett] is planning his grapery; he gave some seed for a Portugal grape to [Thomas] De Lage Sumter; Mrs. Poinsett sends her love to all the family.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 28 cm. x 21 cm.

544. 1846, July 27. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He is sending him a pamphlet he wrote on the subject of Mexican affairs; he would have exposed the fallacy of Mr. [James K.] Polk's claim to the Rio Grande [River] as a boundary but that the people support Polk in this; asks if Governor [William L.] Marcy's letter to Colonel [Isaac I.] Stevens was genuine or a hoax; the administration has been naming members of Congress to the command of volunteer regiments and selecting other officers in violation of the law, and justifying their action by what they claim was a precedent set by [Martin] Van Buren's administration, when the governors commissioned officers chosen by the regiments; Julius Pringle left them [the Poinsetts] to return to his family; he has four children now, one just born; they are "fine children, good specimens of a southern graft upon northern stock"; he [Poinsett] has decided to build a threshing mill moved by water power on his plantation, which he described; Sir Robert's [Sir Robert Peel] ministry has been replaced by a new one [under Lord John Russell] which will not sacrifice so much to preserve peace with the United States; the Whigs [in England] flattered but opposed the United States, while the Tories are friendly because they believe it essential to the welfare of England; asks who will succeed [Louis] McLane; the *Union* publishes some remarks from the *Debates* in reference to the seizure by the United States of country between the Nueces [River] and Rio Grande [River]; Mrs. Poinsett sends her love to all the family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

545. 1846, [Sept. 5]. J[AMES] D. B. DE BOW, Secretary, Louisiana Historical Society, New Orleans, [La.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.]

Form letter notifying him that he has been elected a member of the Louisiana Historical Society, president, Francois Xavier Martin; a copy of the constitution of the Society, adopted July 1, 1846, is appended.

Cy. 1 p. 27.5 cm. x 21.5 cm. On Page 3 of letter from executive committee of the society to Poinsett. *See* next entry.

546. 1846, Sept. 5. J. P. BENJAMIN, L. JANIN, J[AMES] D. B. DE BOW, J. L. RIDDELL, and ALFRED HENNEN, Executive Committee [Louisiana Historical Society], New Orleans, [La.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.]

They have organized a Louisiana Historical Society, and want to have a course of lectures relating particularly to the Southwest,

Mexico, California, and South America; they want him to deliver an address during the coming winter, time and subject to be selected by Poinsett.

L. S. 1 p. 27.5 cm. x 21.5 cm.

On page 3 is a copy of the form letter of notification of election to the society, and of the constitution of the society. See preceding entry.

547. 1846, Oct. 10. GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, [N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C.

He has been very busy attending the constitutional convention of the State of New York; [Robert P.] Parrott attended to his private affairs in his absence; the constitution, according to Attree [?] the reporter, has more good principles and more bad grammar than any other in the Union; Kemble voted against almost all the articles except that of finances and canals; [Silas] Wright [Jr.] has been renominated for governor in spite of the opposition of the administration at Washington [D. C.]; the administration is alarmed; Mr. [James] Buchanan gave his adhesion to Mr. Wright; Buchanan can expect nothing more from Mr. [James K.] Polk and still less from the 54-40 men; Buchanan had just left when [George] Bancroft came "with soft assurances from Mr. Polk himself . . . Bancroft is but a poor diplomatist"; he was told that New York would judge Mr. Polk's administration by its acts, not by its professions; he left Albany [N. Y.] for Lindenwald, [Kinderhook, N. Y.], to see if he would succeed better with Mr. [Martin] Van Buren; General [Stephen W.] Kearny has proclaimed the annexation of New Mexico to the United States with himself as governor; Kemble would like "to see [Thomas H.] Benton swallowing this—Kearney is a weak man but it hardly appears possible that he should have published such a paper without authority from Washington [D. C.];—it reminds one of . . . revolutionary France"; Kemble is eager for news from [Colonel William J.] Worth and [General Zachary] Taylor, for General [Mariano] Arista will strike a blow to avenge his former disgrace; the whole war will cost at least fifty millions; he is expecting Mr. [Martin] Van Buren and Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.] on a fishing visit; William [Kemble] and his family have left Cold Spring, and Mary [Parrott, nee Kemble] will soon leave with [Robert P.] Parrott to visit the latter's family in New Hampshire; Parrott will possibly be sent to the next Congress; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

548. [1846], [Oct. 26].

The / American New Monthly Magazine / and / Register of the Times. / [Straight Line] / Edited by James Stryker, A.M. /

[*Straight line*] / [17 lines] / The first number will be issued in January, 1847. Terms—Three dollars a year, payable in advance. / [*wavy line*] /

James Stryker is publishing a new magazine, *The American New Monthly Magazine and Register of the Times*, which will include science, art, literature, and politics, the latter from a non-partisan viewpoint; the magazine will be published in New York [N. Y.]; appended is a list of patrons and a list of subscribers.

Broadsheet. 25 cm. x 19.5 cm. (20 cm. x 16 cm.)

Letter from Stryker to J. R. Poinsett is written on page 3 of pamphlet; *see* next entry.

549. 1846, Oct. 26. JAMES STRYKER, New York, [N. Y.].
To JOEL R. POINSETT, Columbia, S. C.

He is sending him a prospectus of the magazine he is going to publish [*The American New Monthly Magazine and Register of the Times*]; asks Poinsett to contribute an article for the first number of the magazine, and also to subscribe to it, and see that it gets patronage in Charleston [S. C.]; he and Mrs. S[tryker] send regards to Mrs. Poinsett.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 19.5 cm.

Written on page 3 of pamphlet; *see* preceding entry.

550. 1846, Oct. 28. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

News of the victory of [General Zachary] Taylor and [Colonel William J.] Worth, and especially of the distinction the latter won at Monterey, [Mexico], was a relief; he sent the second number of the *Review* to Colonel [Joseph G.] Totten and asked him to send it to Kemble; the Mexican terrain makes campaigning difficult; General [Stephen W.] Kearny's proclamation is "proconsular"; the war will be "a severe blow to the Constitution if it is not rebuked by the people. The waste of blood . . . is a trifling evil compared with moral and political effects upon our institutions"; he is glad that Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.] is safe; [George] Bancroft should be confined to his desk and his lectures; [William L.] Marcy is getting on better since he took back Major [Samuel] Cooper; General [James I.] McKay, "our old torment," will face his own declaration for direct taxes, as the war is not over; the war may jeopardize the Democratic majority, and the Whigs may inherit the war; Mexican pride has been hurt, but they are not yet subdued; Mr. [John] Forsyth would have erred in the same way as Mr. [James K.] Polk had Mr. [Martin] Van Buren not prevented it; he [Forsyth] never forgave Poinsett's peaceful counsels on that occasion, when a war

would have been more just than now; Poinsett frustrated a scheme of the Spanish American republics to form military and economic alliances with each other; the scheme was included in the first British Treaty but was rejected by Mr. [George] Canning on some other ground; General [Antonio] Santa Anna wrote to [General Juan] Almonte corroborating Poinsett's suggestions, in his article in the *Commercial Review* [of the South and West]; he has been stumping in N[orth] Carolina for a central railroad; his rice crop is good, but the gale caused much damage; he plans to have a threshing mill; asks Kemble to visit him at Peedee [Georgetown, S. C.]; Mrs. Poinsett was ill but is better; General [Waddy] Thompson's daughter is to be married this evening; Poinsett and Thompson are on neighborly terms; the latter has retracted his criticisms of Poinsett during the election campaign; he is not a reliable man, according to Mr. [Martin] Van Buren; he [Poinsett] hopes that [Robert P.] Parrott will go to Congress; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 28 cm. x 22.5 cm.

551. 1846, Nov. 10. J. R. P[OINSETT], Greenville, S. C.
To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

The summer has been very hot and dry, but the verbena which he saw with her in Kew Gardens, [London], and of which he brought a sample to America survived the drought; he finds his farm and plantation life very pleasant; he raises rice for the market; he isn't sure he likes "the management of slaves; but if they did not belong to me they would perhaps be worse off, for I attend to their physical comfort and to their religious instruction. They are better fed, clothed and lodged than many of the peasantry of Europe and at least as well taught. It is . . . a practical question and one of the most difficult solution, when I succeeded to my father's estate I was fresh from England, and without . . . reflection emancipated the few negroes he had possessed. They were household servants, not one could support himself although I had taken the precaution to give them trades, they all perished miserably a burthen to the parish and to me and a perfect nuisance to the community . . . But this is a november subject and I will be done with it"; he will send her a copy of the address he made on the life and character of "one of our public men [Andrew Jackson]"; he wrote it in haste, which according to Mrs. Poinsett is his best guarantee for accomplishing anything; he will address the [South Carolina] Agricultural Society in Columbia, [S. C.] where they are meeting concurrently with the legislature, on the subject [the railroad] in which they are associated; he hopes to effect some improvement in the state educational system; the farmers are shrewd and intelligent but uneducated; the Queen [Victoria] has become quite a traveller; steam is producing wonder-

ful effects in the United States—"we want but a common language to form one great nation."

Cy. In Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 5 pp. 31 cm. x 20 cm.

552. 1846, Nov. 21. [MAJOR] S[AMUEL] COOPER, Washington, [D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Acknowledges his letter of November 5 enclosing a letter from Captain [George R.] Grossman, who is unnecessarily alarmed over the matter of his promotion to Major; one of the bureaus in the [War] Department made an error in placing his name below some of his juniors on a list; he stands first, and will fill the first vacancy of Major which occurs; acknowledges Poinsett's letter of June 24; he communicated Poinsett's views contained therein on the Mexican situation to those who influence the conduct of the war; it is now too late to withdraw; he thinks the plan of campaigning unwise; the policy adopted in respect to the Mexican forces defeated at Monterey, [Mexico] is very civil, but not military according to the Napoleon [Bonaparte] school; asks Poinsett to send him an account of the country and people and resources of Mexico; [John] Mason gives him some information, but he is prejudiced against Mexico; he [Cooper] will send Poinsett a bound copy of the executive documents which was especially gotten up for him, according to [War] Department custom.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

553. 1846, Dec. 18. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his letter of November 23, which he received in Charleston, [S. C.]; Mrs. Poinsett has been ill, and he is just recovering from an attack of influenza; he is sorry to hear of the Democratic defeat in New York; he had built his hopes on Mr. [Silas] Wright [Jr.]; Mr. [James K.] Polk's message was "prolix and feeble" except for the section relating to the tariff; his argument about [General Mariano] Paredes[y Arrillaga] and [General Antonio] Santa Anna is disgraceful; he should have left his defense to [Thomas] Ritchie; General [Zachary] Taylor is a wise man and a good soldier, and is uneasy about his position and the proposed campaign in Mexico; Santa Anna will probably attack the flank or rear of the United States forces; the volunteers in Mexico will be replaced by raw recruits; [William L.] Marcy advocated an increase of the regular army; thanks Kemble for his letter on the Boston [Mass.] railways; he addressed the people of Charleston, [S. C.] on the projected railroad, but fears nothing will be done as they are crotchety and the villages are jealous; he had hoped [Robert P.] Parrott would be

elected to the House; his rice crop was good; he decided to use water power [for the threshing mill] as the canal connecting the two rivers could serve both purposes; he regrets that Kemble could not visit them; they hope to visit the North next year; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards to Kemble and to his sister [Mary Parrott].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

554. 1846, Dec. 27. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He is hardly able to write, but his nephew Ralph Izard, Mr. Joshua Ward, Mr. Daniel Blake, and Colonel R. T. W. Allston want to know about the Manzanilla sherry they ordered; it is to be sent through Messrs. Robertson and Blacklock in Charleston [S. C.]; he is out of touch with the South Carolina Congressmen; the nullifiers and Unionists are at peace, but the former still war on Poinsett, which prevents him from using his influence in regard to the Mexican War; he wants regular troops to be used in place of volunteers; to help accomplish this a comparison of deaths in the two groups must be presented to Congress; the conduct of the negotiations has been unwise; Mexico does not want to receive a minister plenipotentiary and yet Mr. [James] Buchanan insists on sending one; the kind of commission which negotiated with England at Ghent [Belgium] ought to be sent; the United States is losing men, money and character; he had three articles in the *Southern Commercial Review*,¹² in the July, September, and December issues; Kemble was to receive copies.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

555. 1847, Jan. 18. J. R. P[OINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.].
To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

Acknowledges her letter which his illness kept him from answering; on his way through Charleston [S. C.] he spoke on the projected railroad from the mountains to the seacoast; he was pleased to hear news of her brothers and sister; sends regards to Eliza; a friend of his is trying to reduce by taking exercise, like Eliza's husband, but to no avail; his "little friend George's son who writes tragedies and hunts for planets" will never be fat; the United States is in the wrong in the Mexican War; Mexico is too proud to admit defeat; they may find "in Mexico another Algeria"; in spite of the income tax Sir Robert Peel is one of the greatest ministers England ever had; but Poinsett's advocacy of free trade for 40 years would

¹² *The Commercial Review of the South and West*, published by James D. B. De Bow.

prejudice him in favor of Sir Robert, whom he likes “wonderfully”; as for the sugar question, “you cannot cure the plague spot of slavery by any such partial measure. Free sugar without free corn and cotton is nonsense. I look forward to the gradual extinguishment of slavery from the changes the proprietors are undergoing in their interests. Within my recollection it has become extinct in eight opulent states and in several others it is becoming burdensome to retain them. In [this] region . . . it is only moderately profitable to cultivate the soil by slave labour. Where I reside in summer it is ruinous. . . . The black slave is far better off in the Carolinas than the white slave in the North of Europe. Both are evils . . . and a free state has . . . the advantage over one that admits of slavery”; he has been preaching the education of the people, but has made little progress because of the sparseness of the population; last year he told the State Agricultural Society that “they must fertilize the mind if they would spread fertility over the land.”

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 6 pp. 31 cm. x 20 cm.

556. 1847, Feb. 8. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Washington, [D. C.]

He is doubtful about Kemble's determination to consult with the President [James K. Polk] about Poinsett's scheme for bringing the Mexicans to terms, for unsolicited advice is unwelcome; the House debates remind one of Talleyrand's dictum, “*Souvenez vous qui la fougue n'est pas la force*”; [General Zachary] Taylor has been criticized for his best efforts, military and political, at Monterey, [Mexico]; the organization of a regular force is the first judicious step taken by Congress in this war; Kemble is to tell the President [Polk] only that whatever information Poinsett has about Mexico is at the service of his country; he would like to see Colonel [Thomas H.] Benton's plan of campaign for the war; he [Poinsett] would not sanction the line of defense proposed by Mr. [John A.] Dix and others; Mexico will be difficult to conquer, and she will be aided by European arms which can be sent by Honduras [Central America]; Kemble is to send ten casks of wine, one for Mr. R[alph] Izard and one for Mr. Tacker; Mr. Ward's name is John, not Joshua.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

557. 1847, Feb. 15. J. R. P[OINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.].
To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

Acknowledges her letter of December 12, [1846]; Sir Francis Head's statements must be taken with an ounce rather than a grain of salt; he was unfit to be governor of Canada at the time he was sent for that service—the Rough Rider of the Pampas could not

handle a situation requiring tact and conciliatory measures; the relief of Ireland is a difficult problem; Ireland is so different from England that what would restore order in England would only bring confusion in Ireland; the Irish can only be cornered and reformed by their Catholic priests, as were the Indians in Paraguay by the Jesuits; only an agricultural people can become highly civilized, and the Irish are not originally agricultural; if England applies its poor laws to Ireland, the Irish will be impoverished, not relieved; Poinsett is of Huguenot descent, but he knows the power for good or evil which the Catholic Church can wield in a Catholic country; the English government should utilize the power for good of the Irish Catholic Church; this would compel Mr. [Daniel] O'Connell to retire; he [Poinsett] and Timothy [Tyrrell] agree that the English must adopt such a policy; her news of the death of Mr. Francis is surprising, for he has not read "of such results from our swift traveling"; but American locomotives do not run as rapidly as English ones; he is grieved to learn of her illness; when he was ill eight or nine years ago in Washington, [D. C.], he found his obituary notices in distant papers very interesting to read.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 5 pp. 31 cm. x 20 cm.

558. 1847, Mar. 10. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Asks if Kemble received the letter he wrote to him in Washington [D. C.] in care of Colonel [Joseph G.] Totten; the latter has gone to participate in the [Mexican] War; the army will oppose [Thomas H.] Benton as a leader; he is to be placed at the head of the diplomacy with three millions at his disposal and [General Winfield] Scott is to beat the Mexicans into "a treating temper"; [General Antonio] Santa Anna will direct his forces against the American frontier, and leave Vera Cruz [Mexico] to Providence; if he leaves [General Zachary] Taylor at Monterey [Mexico] and destroys his communications, "Rough and Ready" [Taylor] will be in an awkward situation; [Hopkins L.] Turney made an attack on [John C.] Calhoun in the Senate; the latter's statement that "he would not turn on his heel to be president" was about as true as that of [Gaetano] Vestus, who said he pirouetted not for the applause of the pit but from a sense of honor; [Thomas] Ritchie is again denouncing Calhoun; at the beginning Poinsett told the President [James K. Polk] through Mr. [George] Bancroft that Calhoun's support could be gained only by promoting him for the next presidency; this advice was disregarded, and now Calhoun holds the balance of power; [Thomas H.] Benton was right in regarding Calhoun as the cause of the war, not as the annexer of Texas but as the intriguer at the Baltimore [Md.] convention who defeated "the will of the Democ-

racy and placed in power an inefficient man"; the mission to France has been bestowed upon "an innocent man if not an able one"; he is progressing with his threshing mill and water wheel; steam would be the best power; he would have liked to try his hand at the Mexican War; [General Winfield] Scott now sees that he [Poinsett] was right; the appointment of [William] Cummings of Georgia is judicious, for he and Mc Crea [William Mac Rea] were the best officers in the army at the close of the last war; "Your old acquaintance Campbell is with me" and sends regards, as does Mrs. Poinsett to Kemble and his sister [Mrs. Robert P. Parrott].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

559. 1847, Mar. 25. JOHN Y. MASON, Secretary of the Navy, [Washington, D. C.]

Regulations for the admission of midshipmen into the United States Navy.

Printed document. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

560. 1847, Apr. 2. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

[General Zachary] Taylor has been shamefully treated, and if he defends himself against [General Antonio] Santa Anna until relief comes he will deserve any post in the gift of the people; his [Taylor's] views coincide with Poinsett's as the latter expressed them in the *Southern Commercial* [*Commercial Review of the South and West*]; advises Kemble to read Taylor's letters in the *Intelligencer* of March 25 [?]; Taylor has a "Military mind"; he [Poinsett] is eager for news of General [Winfield] Scott; Kemble is to tell Mr. [Martin] Van Buren that the war will cost even more blood and treasure; "Taylor I see makes the same proposition I did to you and that Calhoun has taken up stumbling as he does over the details. 'The Tutor'—what can he know of points of defence!"; Poinsett destroyed Kemble's letter referring to the Cabinet, as he always does when the letters are not for general consumption; Poinsett is glad he isn't in the Cabinet—his chief must be a gentleman and an honest man; he was interested in directing the Mexican campaign because of the ignorance of those in control and because of his own knowledge of Mexico and of military matters; he would like to see Mr. [Martin] Van Buren and [James K.] Paulding at Kemble's in June, but he can't come North until later; the grapes Kemble sent him have not succeeded, and he would like to have some more; his work with his machinery is slow, and he is doing it with his own carpenters; he had to interrupt it to build a dairy for Mrs. Poinsett; he has to do without lime in his agriculture; he is glad Kemble

has profited from the Mexican War; he asks Kemble's opinion on Lieutenant [John B.] Walbach's report; the wine was received.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

561. 1847, May 3. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

They are about to depart for Greenville [S. C.]; he plans to attend a meeting in Columbia [S. C.] in relation to a railroad between that place and the mountains; the commissioners want him to be president of the company, but he must refuse; thanks Kemble for the credit he gives him for introducing light artillery into the army; General [Zachary] Taylor's report shows how helpful it is in Mexico; "Poor Ringgold [Major Samuel Ringgold] begged hard to be let off and to be made a commissary. . . . He saw his error after a time and thanked me for the command. Peace to his name; his was a gallant spirit"; he was amused to hear Mr. [Martin] Van Buren praise Amos Kendall for the way in which the general post office was constructed, when the final success was due to Poinsett's exertions; when everything essential was done, Congress, instigated by General [James I.] McKay, took the work out of the President's [Van Buren's] hands and gave it to Kendall, and "Mr. Van Buren has to thank me that he had not the credit of an Athenian Gothic edifice being erected at Washington during his term of office"; Poinsett has a small church to build at Greenville [S. C.] and asks Kemble to send him [Richard] Upjohn's book of plans, it can be sent to Messrs. Robertson and Blacklock; the steamship line between New York [N. Y.] and Charleston [S. C.] which Poinsett once recommended to Kemble's patronage has proved very successful, and the *Southerner* will soon have a companion ship, the *Northerner*; the sherry was highly approved; he is apprehensive of the outcome of the Mexican War; [General Antonio] Santa Anna is a monarchist at heart, and eventually the Republicans will expel him and recover power from the priests; D[anic]l Webster will be better received at Charleston than Mr. [Henry] Clay, who was welcomed only by Whigs; he would prefer to receive the plants in the winter; he started his grapery last summer; the cold weather has retarded the flowers and fruit; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

562. 1847, June 12. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, New York, [N. Y.]

The cold weather has been fatal to fruit, produce, and flowers; only the grapes and figs are flourishing; Mr. Vardry McBee, a

neighbor, wants Poinsett to introduce him to Kemble; he is uneducated, but shrewd and intelligent; he owns a flour mill, a paper mill, a cotton mill, and houses and land; he says he is going to New York for information about railroads; he [Poinsett] received a letter recently from Captain Benj[ami]n Huger, who praises General [Winfield] Scott's prudence and energy; but the American army in Mexico has suffered heavy losses, and may not be able to take Mexico [City]; he is sending a paper he wrote when in Columbia, [S. C.] about the projected railroad; General [Waddy] Thompson has been visiting Poinsett and discussing Mexico; General [Winfield] Scott's proclamation as to the invasion of Mexico flouts the accepted principle of noninterference and distorts all the facts; has ordered [Richard] Upjohn's book for him.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

563. 1847, July 15. J. R. P[OINSETT], Greenville, S. C.
To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

The news that her brother William [Tyrrell] has been promoted from Beaulieu, [Hampshire, England] to the bishopric of Newcastle, [New South Wales] in Australia is not pleasing; the vulgarity of a new colony is a poor exchange for the culture and refinement of England; Poinsett remembers meeting William at Hastings, [England] in 1821; he would like "Bishop Tyrrell" to write a book on Australia, like Bishop [Reginald] Herber's book on India,¹³ which is the best book written on India; Americans have been generous in their assistance to the Irish, who are more pastoral than agricultural, and ought to be taught more about tillage; Sir Francis Head by his own admission was unequal to the difficult tasks facing him [in Canada]; Poinsett remonstrated with Mr. [Henry S.] Fox, English ambassador at Washington [D. C.], on the governor's [Head's] lack of activity and of tact; he risked the safety of the upper province in order to take McKensie [William L. Mackenzie] "*in flagrante delicti*"; through his negligence the insurrection in Upper Canada nearly led to the capture of Toronto, and almost caused border trouble with the United States; Sir Francis says in his book that he wanted to make a chemical analysis of the advantages between monarchical and republican institutions, for which he was ready to risk a war between England and the United States; he should be left to "his private scampering over the pampas"; Mr. Fox died recently in Washington; he was a man of great ability.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 7 pp. 31 cm. x 20 cm.

¹³ Reginald Herber, *Journey Through India from Calcutta to Bombay, with Notes on Ceylon* (2 vols., 1828).

564. 1847, Aug. 25. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.].
To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

Acknowledges his letter; their trip North must be postponed a year; he wrote this to Mr. [Martin] Van Buren; Mrs. Poinsett is too ill to make the trip; he would like to travel by the steamship line from Charleston [S. C.] to New York [N. Y.], but Mrs. Poinsett insists on land travel if possible; his life is lonely and remote; the Mexican War has divided the Democrats, demoralized the nation, and threatened the Union; asks for Kemble's opinion on [General Zachary] Taylor's correspondence; "He has his own consent to be President, but the military heroes [Taylor and General Winfield Scott] will balance each other and neither will be chosen"; Scott has the elements of "a great man shrouded in a mantle of vanity"; he has probably reached Mexico [City] by this time; none of the statesmen or warriors know Mexico as well as Poinsett does; he has no converse with the South Carolina Congressmen; "Their idol [John C. Calhoun] I cannot worship"; Calhoun is responsible for the present administration being in power; his [Poinsett's] grapes have been ruined by the wet weather; the railroad project is still unsettled; the people are "vexed because I do not exaggerate the advantages and diminish the cost and difficulties in my harangues and addresses"; he hasn't yet received the plans for the church from Kemble's brother William [Kemble]; the "good folks" are impatient to tear down the old church; the new one will be built of brick, coated with cement, and stained gray; he and Mrs. Poinsett send regards to all the family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

565. 1847, Oct. 16. JOHN B. LUCE, Choctaw Agency,
West of Arkansas. To J. R. POINSETT, Columbia, S. C.

The late Major [William] Armstrong was in 1839 assigned the extra duty of being disbursing agent of the Western Territory, and was assured he would receive extra pay; in 1841 Mr. [John] Bell, Secretary of War, told Armstrong that an additional allowance for his past services as superintendent of Indian Affairs should be obtained from Congress; Mr. Bell's retirement and subsequent changes in the department caused the application to be delayed; just before his death, Armstrong requested Luce to prosecute the claim for his family; Luce was appointed an extra clerk in the Indian Office in 1838 by Poinsett, since which time he has been regularly employed there; Armstrong received \$500 a year as Choctaw agent, with nothing extra for his services as superintendent or as disbursing agent; when he was made disbursing agent, he had to increase his bonds from \$2,000 to \$40,000; the disbursements were sometimes very large,

especially during the contracts of Messrs. Glasgow and Harrison, and should have been handled by other agents as the Cherokee funds were; asks Poinsett if he can contribute any information which would assist the claim when laid before Congress.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

566. 1847, Oct. 29. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

The enemy's capital [Mexico City] has been captured; more troops will be needed to keep possession of what has already been taken; all Mexico is aroused by this conquest, which can never be more than military occupation; it is similar to the case of Russia which in 1796 conquered the people living on the isthmus between the Caspian and Black Seas; in 1807 when Poinsett visited that part of the country traveling was unsafe; the people of the isthmus are fewer than the Mexicans, and the enemy more powerful, yet even now they have not given up the struggle; much money and many troops have been and will be lost if the attempt is made to retain Mexico; asks if the administration has caused the division in the Democrats of New York; the proceedings of the Syracuse [N. Y.] convention annoyed him; Kemble and his friends will have to stir themselves or "we shall be delivered again into the hands of the Philistines and the Whigs will reign over us"; General [Zachary] Taylor is coming home, and will be brought forward as a candidate; the South Carolina politicians want to bring the election into the House, to insure the election of their idol [John C. Calhoun]; the wealthy South Carolinians are establishing a paper at Washington [D. C.] ostensibly to vindicate the rights of the South in the matter of the Wilmot Proviso, but really to sustain the pretensions of the Southern candidate [Calhoun]; they asked Poinsett to contribute; if he could afford anything he would give it to suppress, not to aid the scheme; Mrs. Poinsett is still ill; they will leave for the plantation [Greenville, S. C.] in a week; asks the cost of casting for wind fans; Mrs. Poinsett and he send regards to Kemble and to Mr. and Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott; Julius Pringle met William Kemble at dinner in New York [N. Y.].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

567. 1847, Nov. 4. G[OUVERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring,
[N. Y.]. To J. R. POINSETT

He has read Poinsett's declaration to the people of South Carolina concerning the Greenville, S. C., railroad project; he would add to it that the state guarantees six percent interest on the investment and ten percent on capital paid in, for it is not fair for the state to reap all the profits; two millions cannot be raised on patriot-

ism alone even in South Carolina; the romantic adventure of General [Winfield] Scott in taking Mexico City, comparable to the brilliant achievement of Cortes [Hernando Cortez], has aroused little enthusiasm in the United States; [Colonel Joseph G.] Totten told Kemble upon his return from Vera Cruz [Mexico] that even Scott's best friends failed to appreciate him; the administration sent Scott to Mexico as a foil to General [Zachary] Taylor, whose rising popularity was feared, and then failed to send him adequate supplies, and [William L.] Marcy and [James K.] Polk called him a fool; Kemble told Marcy to send the munitions collected at Governors Island [in New York harbor] unless he wanted to be attacked in the papers; Marcy told Kemble not to interfere; what was denied Scott at Washington [D. C.] he procured in Mexico on his own authority; reinforcements were sent finally, too late to save the blood spilt in the siege of Mexico City; the administration has for months denied the receipt of dispatches from General Scott, while the private letters of himself and his officers have been published; the administration is concealing the dispatches to save face; the New York elections resulted in a Democratic defeat; Kemble would not vote the ticket, so abstained from voting for the first time in thirty years; gross fraud was exercised to oust Mr. [Azariah C.] Flagg from the comptrollership of the state; his opponents were all contractors with whose speculations he interfered; such men, led by Marcy, are running the country; it is better for the Whigs to win than for such gamblers to control the state treasury; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett; Sir Rob[ert] Peel's bank bill has created excitement in England.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

568. 1847, Nov. 25. MAT. J. WILLIAMS, [South Carolina College, Columbia, S. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, Columbia, [S. C.]

He sends a letter from Professor [William] Bartlett of West Point [N. Y.], whom Poinsett called into active service when he was Secretary of War; he is sure that the sentiments in the letter are shared by all of the army which witnessed the influence of Poinsett's administration.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Attached is copy of Bartlett's letter to Williams made by Poinsett; *see* next entry. Enclosure missing.

569. [1847, Nov.]. [PROFESSOR] WM. BARTLETT, [West Point, N. Y.]. To PROFESSOR M[AT.] J. WILLIAMS, S[outh] C[arolina] College, [Columbia, S. C.]

[J. R.] Poinsett is missed at head of War Department; he did much for the Academy [West Point] and still more for the army;

he should be gratified by the achievements of the army in the South; Bartlett sends regards to Poinsett.

Cy. in Poinsett's hand. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Attached to letter from Williams to Poinsett, November 25, 1847; *see* preceding entry.

570. 1847, Dec. 20. W. F. DE SAUSSURE, [South Carolina College], Columbia, [S. C.]. To [J. R. POINSETT]

The trustees of South Carolina College have appointed Poinsett a member of the board of visitors to attend the examinations of the senior class; the pay is three dollars a day; the examinations begin on November 13, [1848] and continue several days; the other visitors are Robert W. Barnwell, Whitmarsh B. Seabrook, Edmund Belinger, Mitchell King, the Rev. Alexander Glennie of Georgetown [S. C.], the Rev. S. S. Davis of Camden [S. C.], the Rev. Dr. Hazellius of Lexington [S. C.], and the Rev. Whiteford Smith.

L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

571. 1848, Jan. 4. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges two letters from Kemble; he has been very ill; he caught a cold while attending sessions of the legislature in Columbia [S. C.] where they were detained by Mrs. Poinsett's illness; by the time he reached the White House [on the Peedee, Georgetown, S. C.] he thought he was going to die; they will visit him in the spring; General [Winfield] Scott has impaired his reputation by quarreling with the press and publishing orders about coteries among his officers; the determination to retain Mexico will cost more blood than can be spared, and more money than can be raised; the time has not yet come for the Anglo-Saxons of North America to overrun the mixture of Spanish and Indian in Mexico, though inevitably English will be spoken to the Isthmus of Panama; the claimants can be blamed for the war only inasmuch as they urged on Mr. [James K.] Polk, who was intent upon conquests; by this time Mexico must have learned to respect the arms of the United States; he hopes Congress will put the army on a footing with the best in Europe; the United States Army is superior to the Mexican, just as the European armies are to the United States Army; Napoleon said that the moral force of the soldier was as four to one compared to his physical force; every step farther into Mexico lessens the possibility of peace on the terms of the United States; [John C.] Frémont's scrape will do him little harm; General [Stephen W.] Kearny was inconsistent in his accounts of interviews with Frémont; Frémont

would have fared better had his counsel [for court martial] not tried to exalt his services; sends measurements and diagrams for the casting for wind fans; Poinsett is not a "Mexican Whig," as "old [Thomas] Ritchie" calls all who oppose the war; he was opposed originally to the war, then to the plan of action, now to the continuance of the war; a war of total subjugation will last twenty years; he and Mrs. Poinsett send regards to all; the President's [James K. Polk's] suggestion to raise a peace party in Mexico and treat with it must have raised up the ghost of the Hartford Convention before Kemble.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Endorsed in Kemble's hand, "An excellent letter but needs curtailment. G. K."

572. 1848, Feb. 3. A. P. BUTLER, Washington, [D. C.].
To JOEL R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]

Poinsett's last letter, published in the [Washington] *Intelligencer*, has attracted much attention, for it came out when the financial resources of Mexico were under discussion; the West is increasingly in favor of annexing Mexico; the government cannot treat with the prevailing party there and plans to use the army to build up a party with which to treat; if the leaders in this movement saw where they were heading, they might be apprehensive; Mr. [John] Bell of Ten[nesse]e made a speech which attracted attention; Poinsett will like many parts of it; the presidential aspirants are fighting over the war; he [Butler] sent Poinsett his remarks on the war.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

573. 1848, Feb. 17. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his letter of February 1; the evils of the country are traceable to that anti-republican rule that it should require two-thirds to govern; this device of [John C.] Calhoun's will be costly to the Democrats; he would prefer the Whigs to the party now in power; [Lewis] Cass is a "most notorious ass" who believes the people are to be won only by rash counsels; [Robert J.] Walker [Secretary of the Treasury] talks of retiring; he is headstrong, but talented and energetic; neither Mr. [Nicholas P.] Trist nor General [Winfield] Scott will be able to make peace with Mexico if the United States increases its demands; Poinsett has been writing again, for the policy in regard to Mexico is so rash and stupid that it will, if persisted in, cause European interference; Europe will not permit the absorption of Mexico by violence; General Scott is to be brought home and disgraced; Kemble can find out what Major [Abraham] Van

Buren says about Scott's position; General [William J.] Worth has taken a false step—"no man ever made himself President"; Mr. [Martin] Van Buren, if again elected President, could restore the ascendancy of the Democratic Party, and Poinsett could make peace with Mexico in a month; no foreigner in any country exercised as much influence as Poinsett did in Mexico, where he gained the confidence of the republican party; the people of the United States are being led to sacrifice men, money, and character to the ambition of a few men in Washington [D. C.]; "Mr. [James K.] Polk to have the credit of a brilliant administration, candidates for the Presidency as thick as blackberries and hearts as black . . . bands of adventurers and speculators . . . all united to prey upon the people and to take advantage of their gullibility"; Mrs. Poinsett is better, and he himself is convalescent enough to manage the plantation; the establishment of seagoing steamers between their ports [New York, N. Y., and Charleston, S. C.] has proved a success; Philadelphia [Pa.] and Baltimore [Md.] are about to establish similar lines; invites Kemble to visit them; his threshing mill has been put into operation; Kemble is to send a turning lathe when he sends the iron wheels; Mrs. Poinsett and he send regards to Kemble and his sister [Mary, Mrs. Robert P. Parrott].

A. L. S. 5 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

574. 1848, Mar. 21. [COL.] J[OHN] J. ABERT, Wash[ington, D. C.]. To J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]

He will send Poinsett a copy of [William J.] Abert's report on New Mexico to accompany the map, and a copy of [William H.] Emory's report and map of his expedition to the Pacific under the command of General [Stephen W.] Kearny; the [War] Office has [Baron Friedrich von] Humboldt's atlas and work on New Mexico, in which the spelling differs from that of Poinsett and of Abert; there is a friendly disposition towards the Nat[ional] Institute, which has three main props of strength: its charter, good until 1862, and renewable, a national character not possessed by the Smithsonian [Institution], and large, valuable collections; [Francis] Markoe [Jr.] is largely responsible for the latter; funds are needed, but the National Institute will not sacrifice its character for financial aid; it hopes to have the help of the United States.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

575. 1848, May 1. J. R. P[OINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.]. To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

Acknowledges her letter of last winter; South Carolina is beautiful in May; the revolutions [in Europe] are unexpected and extraor-

dinary; their republics are utopian and impracticable, and will not endure; the French Revolution might have been beneficial had the people accepted a limited monarchy, but they have no balance wheel to give a republic steady action; Poinsett believes that "those who renounce the unmeaning ceremonies of the Catholic religion become sceptics, and those who escape from despotism, Democrats"; in France, the recently enthused democracy will turn into tyranny worse than that of [King] Louis Philippe, who might have maintained himself upon the throne if he had had more wisdom and firmness; the weekly arrivals of news do not satisfy Poinsett, and he would like to be in reach of the telegraph; he and Mrs. Poinsett will visit the North this summer, spending some time in the state and city of New York; in England, "madmen who would prostrate the constitution and law . . . will be put down either by the force of public sentiment or by the strong arm"; he believes England is in no imminent danger; he admires the piety and self sacrifice of her brother [Bishop William Tyrrell] in his exile in Australia; [Sir James] Brooke is one of the most extraordinary men of the age; his tact and courage have enabled him to accomplish much for the civilization of Borneo [Malay Archipelago]; her [Frances Tyrrell's] educational plans are excellent; sparseness of settlements makes education difficult in the South; the North is liberal and successful; he hopes the railroads will help the South by creating larger communities and facilitating communication.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 5 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20 cm.

576. 1848, Nov. 16. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, S. C. To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

They arrived in Charleston on Tuesday; Mrs. Poinsett was seasick for most of the trip; they enjoyed their visit to the North and especially to Cold Spring, [N. Y.]; "And so old Zach [General Zachary Taylor] is President elect and old party lines are destroyed and new ones to be set up"; he hopes no party will follow the principles laid down by the Buffalo [N. Y.] convention; some fellow travellers on the steamer told him that the presidential election aroused much excitement in England, where the election of General [Lewis] Cass was feared; the conservatives in England will favor the election of Taylor, as do the moderates here; the composition of the cabinet will be interesting; Poinsett was asked by an admirer of [John C.] Calhoun whether Calhoun would not be made Secretary of State; a young Democratic party in South Carolina supported Taylor; this is a hopeful sign for the future of the party; they are leaving for Georgetown [S. C.] on Monday; Julius Pringle and his family and Mrs. [Stuart] Maitland's family are going to the plantation tomorrow; Mrs. Poinsett sends love to Kemble and his sister

[Mary, Mrs. Robert P. Parrott] and unites with Poinsett in sending regards to Mr. [Robert P.] Parrott; he invites Kemble and the Parrotts to visit them this winter; Stuart Maitland will spend Christmas with his wife, and Kemble could cross the ferry with him.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

577. 1848, Dec. 26. J. R. P[OINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.].
To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

Acknowledges her letter; they spent the summer in the state of New York, where they saw many old and dear friends; Mrs. Poinsett went to Sharon, [N. Y.], a watering place, for her rheumatism, and became ill there; he took her to a village called Cherry Valley [N. Y.] in the mountains, where she recovered after three weeks; the waters of the Sharon are like those of Harrowgate, [Harrogate, England] which [Tobias] Smollett described in *Humphrey Clinker*; General [Zachary] Taylor has been elected President, which pleases Poinsett; the outgoing administration showed so much disregard for justice and truth, so much boundless ambition and insatiable desire for conquest, that Poinsett was impelled to write and talk and work against them; the people insisted on a military hero; General Taylor has been long and advantageously known to Poinsett; he would like to tell the people and potentates of Europe what he thinks of their folly and extravagances—"If the French were not such tigers they would amuse me; but I dread those red republicans"; the United States hopes that [General Louis] Cavaignac will be president, for he seems to be the only one able to restrain the energies of democrats and socialists; it is absurd to think that France will become and continue a republic; it appears "that a people must talk English to govern themselves aright or at all. The political jugglers of Europe think to improve upon our representative system."

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 5 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20 cm.

578. 1849, Mar. 23. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He regrets that Mr. [William H.] Aspinwall failed to gain government aid for his project [Panama Railroad?]; eventually "both routes may be in operation for passengers and light freight. Bulky articles will still have to take their weary way round the cape [Cape Horn]"; Poinsett knows nobody in the new cabinet except Mr. [John M.] Clayton; the executive is a political unit and its administrative talent a question mark; the two portraits were purchased at an auction and have no history; the landscapes have been marred by forty years of Carolina climate; [John C.] Calhoun is leading a violent opposition to the administration, with which Poinsett re-

fuses to cooperate though his former colleagues in the Union Party are with Calhoun; Congress shall take care how it passes the Wilmot Proviso or South Carolina will declare its independence; the renaissance of the Democratic Party depends on the unity of the party in New York; but Democratic Senators [Lewis] Cass, [Stephen] Douglas, and [Henry S.] Foote have demonstrated in the [James] Shields controversy [over his eligibility for the Senate] that they would sacrifice the Constitution for party interests; Mr. [Martin] Van Buren is acting unwisely upon the advice of Mr. Benjamin Franklin Butler; the ex-president and ex-secretary [of the treasury], [James K.] Polk and [Robert J.] Walker went through Charleston [S. C.] on their way home; the two would have been complete had General [James I.] McKay been with them; the Poinsetts are undecided as to selling their mountain homestead at Greenville [S. C.]; now that the work there is done, the remoteness, the poor communications, the absence of physicians, all make it less desirable; there are enough vines and fig trees for their grandchildren, the children of Julius Pringle; the cost of the summer at Greenville would be about \$400, including wages for ten servants; if Kemble can provide him with something to do, he will come North in the summer; he would have left South Carolina long ago had it not been for nullification—he refused to be driven from the state by his opponents; he and Mrs. Poinsett send their love; Mrs. Poinsett will soon answer Kemble's sister's [Mrs. Robert P. Parrott's] letter.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

579. 1849, Apr. 17. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, New York, [N. Y.]

He is sorry to hear of Kemble's illness; he has a cold himself; he is obliged to Mr. Ludlow for having the wine sent to Messrs. Robertson and Blacklock, Charleston [S. C.]; invites Kemble to come to visit him to restore his health; they have had cold weather lately, and there may be icebergs around Cape Hatteras [N. C.]; Mrs. Poinsett sends her love to the assembled Kembles, and best wishes "to Maggie and Nourse."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

580. 1849, Apr. 20. J. R. P[OINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.].
To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

The United States committed a gross injustice in taking California from Mexico; as punishment, perhaps, it is being filled "by a miserable sordid population"; the supply of gold is not inexhaustible, and many who are seeking it will perish miserably; the gold coming from California will not change the currency, or the

value of precious metals, for gold and silver must increase greatly to keep pace with the increasing consumption and commerce of the world; Mexico and Spanish America are just beginning to use manufactured goods; "millions are yet to learn the comforts of clean linen or what is more attainable, cotton shirting. I speak now of the agricultural population, descendants of the hewers of wood and drawers of water in the time of Montezuma and the Incas; . . . The hunter or shepherd races . . . are now as they were . . . when Herodotus wrote, and will remain so until extinguished"; he is glad that her brother [Bishop William Tyrrell] is enjoying his exile [in Australia]; America is excited about [Thomas B.] Macaulay's [Macaulay] *History of England*; it is more widely read here than in England, and the general opinion is favorable; [George] Brodie's history of the same period is difficult to read, but like Macaulay's is "somewhat puritan and very whig"; on April 15, South Carolina had a 4-hour snow storm followed by a severe frost which blasted the promise of spring; he will soon go to the mountains.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 5 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20 cm.

581. 1849, May 21. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.].
To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

The rice planters have referred the question of draining the rice lands to him, and "I want your opinion and that of the able practical men around you"; the rice fields have sunk nearly to the level of the river at low water; the fields are watered by allowing the river to flow in, but it does not drain off properly when the fields are sunk.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20 cm. x 12.5 cm.

Endorsed in Gouverneur Kemble's hand, "J. R. Poinsett, 1849."

582. 1849, May 21. J. R. POINSETT, Charleston, [S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He is on his way to Greenville [S. C.]; Kemble's silence makes Poinsett worry about his health, but probably his brother [William Kemble] would have informed him of anything amiss; acknowledges the vases Kemble sent for the garden at the White House, [near Georgetown, S. C.]; vigilance committees met in convention at Columbia [S. C.] to pass resolutions directing the Governor [John H. Means] to convene the legislature in certain events, so that the state may determine the modes of redress; South Carolina is ready to follow Virginia's lead in nullification; conditions in Europe are complicated and hard to analyze; he fears the results will not be favorable to liberty; if Russia interferes, Napoleon's prophecy that "Europe cannot be republican but may be Cossac[k]" may be ful-

filled; asks Kemble's opinion on the New York appointments; none have yet been made in South Carolina; Mrs. Poinsett's health is better; she and Mr. Poinsett send regards to all the Kemble family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

583. 1849, June 22. J. R. POINSETT, Greenville, S. C.
To G[OUVERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges two letters from Kemble, whose remarks on Washington [D. C.] reminds him of the "old times when we thought it hard to be called . . . to hear stupid prolix despatches read by Mr. [John] Forsyth—what would [James K.] Paulding or I have done under the present arrangement . . . I had rather be occupied in my barnyard"; his six acres of wheat yield more than twenty acres belonging to neighbors; most of them use up the land and then move West; the farming country is good there and the climate suited to white laborers, but lack of good roads impedes progress; the railroad will make South Carolina prosper "in spite of her politic sons, whom may God convert to good sense or confound in their folly"; Mr. [James K.] Polk has fallen a victim to ambition—"his sufferings when defending his usurpations and composing his special pleadings miscalled messages must have been . . . destructive of health of body and peace of mind"; now that he is dead, Poinsett can find nothing good to say of him; the state of Europe is more complicated everyday; the new assembly at Paris [France] is alarming; the moderates are timid and listless and not united in resistance; success in politics depends upon courageous action; he [Poinsett] could not have maintained peace in 1831-32 if it had not been supposed that he was anxious to fight; the President [of France] betrayed his party when he apologized to [Alexandre] Ledru-Rollin; he had better have trained him with his mace; Russia has taken part in the European conflict; she had better attack Austria than defend herself against Austria, Hungary, and Poland; the April snow and frost ruined the fruit crops; he envies Kemble the production of 50 tons of iron a day; if the cholera reaches Kemble, he is to retreat to South Carolina; Mrs. Poinsett sends her love to Kemble, his sister [Mrs. Robert P. Parrott] and [Robert P.] Parrott.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

584. 1849, July 15. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He wants Kemble's opinion about irrigating and draining low rice swamp land; the rice fields are embanked to let water in and out by trunks or long boxes embedded in the banks level with the low water mark, and furnished with valves; the fields are flooded

three times a season; he wants to correct bad drainage; suggests that Professor [Dennis H.] Mahan might be able to solve the difficulty; gives average rainfall in Charleston [S. C.] per month.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Endorsed in Kemble's hand, "never idle, much useful information for the rice planter."

585. 1849, Oct. 26. J. R. POINSETT, [Greenville, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, [Cold Spring, N. Y.]

Acknowledges his letter of October 11 with information about drainage operations; Kemble's opinion coincides with that of Colonel [John J.] Abert, who recommends steam power and the scoop wheel, generally used in Lincolnshire and throughout England; he was not surprised at the outcome of the Hungarian struggle against oppression; the people have just recently been liberated from serfdom and slavery "as degrading as that with which we are blessed. . . . The Hungarian noble, like the Polish nobles sought to free himself from the restraint of sovereigns . . . but never meant to give freedom and equal rights to their vassals, for such they are even now"; the struggle in Europe will terminate either in despotism or anarchy; sudden popular outbursts never gain the liberty of the people, not even in England; the Pope is right in wishing to have communes and departments represented, for in that way people will learn to participate in the government; this should be done in France, for the Republic of Paris must fall; [John M.] Clayton is not fit to be Secretary of State; if he had been abroad he might know how to treat foreign ministers; a "Rough and Ready General [Zachary Taylor] is very well, but a President ought to be smooth and courteous and cautious; commend me to our good friend Mr. [Martin] Van Buren. . . . It must have been a treat to have had him and General [Winfield] Scott together"; Poinsett is glad the latter has ceased to dogmatize; he and Mrs. Poinsett have been over the mountains into the northern part of the state to try the warm springs for rheumatism, with no benefit; their trip home was a progress from one hospitable mansion to another; he has had no grapes, but lots of figs; asks Kemble to suggest the best threshing drum for wheat; they will leave Greenville in about ten days.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Endorsed in Kemble's hand "How prophetic his view of French affairs."

586. 1850, Jan. 1. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To [GOUVERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

Sends New Year wishes to the Kemble family; it has been cold in South Carolina; Mrs. Poinsett's sister, Mrs. Eustis, is visiting

them; Poinsett does not know the new speaker, Mr. [Howell] Cobb, but is glad he is a Democrat; the nullifiers want a pretext to dissolve the Union so that they may hold office; he hopes the President [Zachary Taylor] will live up to the promises he makes in his message; the South Carolina legislature recommended a southern convention and elected Judge [Langdon] Cheves and three other nullifiers to represent them; the fact that Poinsett got some votes shows the existence of unionist feeling; the "most impractical abstractionist in the country [John C. Calhoun]" rules South Carolina; he [Poinsett] has had a fair rice crop; the water wheel has not sufficient power to thresh all the rice; Mrs. Poinsett has been trying the remedy of orange and lemon juice suggested by Kemble for her rheumatism; they will consult Dr. Rhinelanders; he is sending Kemble a bronze statuette as a New Year's gift; Poinsett purchased it in Florence [Italy] in 1803; the new railroads run as smoothly as those in England; the railroad to Greenville [S. C.] will be run to Newberry [S. C.] by July, 1850, half of the way; Poinsett has been urging this ever since he returned from Washington [D. C.] but the people of South Carolina have been "too much taken up with resolving to resist free soilism and all provisos ag[ains]t the extension of the blessings of slavery to do anything useful"; asks how Mr. [Martin] Van Buren is and what will become of the Italian villa at Kinderhook [N. Y.], now that Smith's [Smith Van Buren's] charming wife [Ellen Van Buren] is dead; with the name Van Buren, the house should have been Hollandish or German; Mrs. Poinsett joins him in sending regards to all.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

587. 1850, Jan. 31. J. R. P[OINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.]. To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

It is fit punishment for rapacity and injustice of the United States that the territory wrested from its weaker neighbor should breed strife and discord among the conquerors; California wants to enter the Union as a nonslavery state, but the slave-holders of the South protest that neither California nor the federal government has such power; they must do battle for the abstract right to go to California with their slaves and dig for gold—"we are a magnanimous people"; Poinsett takes no part in these absurdities; he thanks her for her account of her nephew Frederick's [Frederick Tyrrell?] pursuits; he should see foundries in Sweden; the people of Europe should not be at once entrusted with the power of self government; they will be lost when the existing powers are overthrown; he [Poinsett] has less sympathy for the Poles and Hungarians than do most of his countrymen, for he has seen that they are turbulent, despotic, and cruel to the dependents; he had hoped for good things in Ger-

many, where there are better morals and more education, but even "the sober Germans cannot distinguish licence from liberty"; he supposes Russia will not be permitted to carry out the ambitious projects of "the great [Empress] Catherine"; England and France interfere with the fulfillment of the prophecy.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 4 pp. 31.5 cm. x 20 cm.

588. 1850, Feb. 4. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEU]R KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Messrs. Robertson and Blacklock, [Charleston, S. C.], are to send the statuette to William [Kemble], who will send it on; it is an excellent small copy of "Il Mercurio" of Jean de Bologna, commonly called in Italy, "Jean Bolini"; the original is in the museum in Florence [Italy]; Mr. [Henry] Clay is working to preserve the Union; a Senator [from New York?] said that if a few men could be removed from both factions, the whole question could be settled at once; the conclusion of Senator [Lewis] Cass' two-day speech is excellent, but the rest was not sound; the abstractionists think California has no right to exclude slavery; there is an excess of sympathy for the Hungarians; asks what Mr. [William Cullen] Bryant thinks of the French Republic after a near view; the people of Europe will not know what to do when their governments are overthrown; the winter has been very warm; Mrs. Poinsett is uneasy because of his sister's [Mrs. Robert P. Parrott] long silence.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

589. 1850, Mar. 25. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

Kemble's appreciation of the excellent miniature of Gian [Jean] de Bolini's best statue ["Il Mercurio"] makes up for lack of appreciation in "this our common country . . . But how long is this to be our common country?"; that archenemy of his country, Mr. [John C.] Calhoun, would destroy what he cannot govern; Calhoun would rather be president of South Carolina than Senator in a mighty empire; he would even ruin South Carolina if that would enable him to govern the whole South; his chances of creating a Southern confederacy now are greater than before, because the slavery question is better understood by the unthinking multitude; Poinsett stands alone in opposition to him in South Carolina; the people expect the Nashville [Tenn.] convention to "set them free from the trammels of the constitution"; upon being invited by both parties to represent Charleston [S. C.] at the convention, Poinsett consented on the understanding that conciliation was to be the keynote of the convention; when told that his policy of opposition

to disunion was not acceptable, he declined; but no Southern confederacies and foreign alliances can destroy the government of the United States; Mr. [Daniel] Webster's speech was patriotic and masterly; he [Poinsett] wishes Mr. [Martin] Van Buren could take part, but he is suffering from gout, probably induced by his drinking claret, champagne, and old Madeira; he and Mrs. Poinsett hope to visit Kemble next summer, but they must go first to Greenville [S. C.] for a few days to set up a threshing mill for his neighbors there; they may sell the Greenville homestead if the extension of the railroad makes it possible; Mrs. Poinsett would rather travel North in the summer than go to the mountains; as for himself, politics affect social relations, and he stands aloof from both Whigs and Calhoun Democrats; asks Kemble to aid him in selling his pictures, for Julius Pringle does not like them and would only sell them; perhaps Mr. Kingsland would be interested in the copy of Raphael's Madonna de la Segiola; the Caravaggio is valuable too, and like the Raphael, was copied from the original; he will send them to William [Kemble] if the idea of selling is practicable; Mrs. Poinsett sends regards to Kemble and to Mr. and Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott; he wants the money from the pictures to buy stock in the railroad to Greenville.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

590. 1850, Mar. 30. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

"Utter madness rules the hour and distracts the land" in South Carolina; he sends Kemble a paper published in Georgetown [S. C.] by Mr. [John C.] Calhoun's friends designed to drive the people to desperate measures; the resolutions passed at district meetings are due to the prompting of Calhoun; the Washington [D. C.] correspondent of this paper makes bold and false assertions; he [Poinsett] has been invited again to go to the [Nashville, Tenn.] convention, but has declined; alone he can make no resistance against the mighty torrent; he wonders if the rice he planted yesterday will be harvested in peace; Kemble is to tell his neighbor, Mr. [Andrew J.] Downing, that if the flowering season for dogwood were noted all over the country, an estimate of the differences of seasons could be arrived at, as dogwood grows everywhere; Mrs. Poinsett sends love to Mary [Mrs. Robert P. Parrott], and Kemble.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

591. 1850, Apr. 16. J[AMES] D. B. DE BOW, New Orleans, [La.]. To JOEL R. POINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.

Poinsett contributed valuable articles for the [*Commercial Review of the South and West*] in its infancy; he wants Poinsett to

send him something again, for the public receives favorably whatever he writes; he may choose any subject; he [De Bow] hopes to improve the *Review*; he will send it regularly to Poinsett; [John C.] Calhoun's vacant seat [in the Senate] has been offered to Hamilton and [Langdon] Cheves; the latter declined; De Bow would like to see Poinsett take Calhoun's place; [James H.] Hammond will probably be the man; sends regards to Mrs. Poinsett; he heard from Lovell the other day.

A. L. S. 1 p. 27 cm. x 21 cm.

592. 1850, Apr. 26. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

"The fair Swede, Miss [Frederika] Bremer" has been visiting the Poinsetts for a fortnight; she has fair hair and skin, but is not pretty; she sent Poinsett a letter from Mr. F. Cottinet [Cottenet] endorsed by [Andrew J.] Downing; yesterday he drove her to Georgetown [S. C.], "where she embarked with a host of Idolators on their way to worship at the shrine of the departed autocrat [John C. Calhoun] of South Carolina. Great funeral services are to be performed in Charleston today and then he will no more be remembered than the great agitator [Daniel] O'Connell will be in Ireland except for the evil he has inflicted upon this state and upon the whole country. This agitation is to be traced to his machination, and now its bitter fruits are degrading our councils and disgracing the country. [Thomas H.] Benton is stark mad and [Henry S.] Foote—I wish he were a northern man or rather that he were a raftsman on the Mississippi [River]—Half horse and half Aligator is not the description of being to represent the sovereignty of the nation in Senate"; Miss Bremer had false notions about the United States; she sympathizes with the Negroes, though she had to admit their condition was superior to that of the peasants of her own country; if laborers in Sweden transgress [Thomas R.] Malthus' law and have more than two children the family starves; Miss Bremer "raves about one [Ralph Waldo] Emerson and read me some of his essays, which I greatly shocked her by pronouncing exaggerated in style and thought"; he is sending Kemble a catalogue of the pictures; he hopes the whole collection can be sold; the Gerard Dow and Peter Neff would be considered valuable paintings in Europe; he is glad to hear of Mr. [Martin] Van Buren's good health; he wishes some of the good company around Kemble would come and rusticate on the Peedee [River, S. C.]; he and Mrs. Poinsett will leave for the mountains [Greenville, S. C.] on May 10, and after a short stay there will go North to visit Kemble.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

593. 1850, May 15. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To [GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.]

The pictures are being sent to Kemble's brother William [Kemble]; it is a cool, late spring, and they stayed longer than usual at the plantation; they hope to reach Kemble's place in July, possibly taking the new railroad from Newberry [S. C.] to New York [N. Y.]; he thanks Kemble for sending him [George] Ticknor's¹⁴ book and he has read every word of it, English and Spanish; it is useful, but only partially entertaining; it is valuable as a book of reference to Spanish literature; he and his wife read together evenings; they send love to Kemble and his family; asks Kemble for answers to accompanying inquiries addressed to him by the secretary of the French Geographical Society; the answers must be in Paris [France] by the middle of July.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

594. 1850, Nov. 29. J. R. POINSETT, Washington, [D. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

They [he and Mrs. Poinsett] have missed seeing the children of Kemble's brother [William Kemble]; they called when the Poinsetts were at Mr. [Francis P.] Blair's; he saw Colonel [Thomas H.] Benton, who is elated because he believes he has been successful in Missouri; it is believed that he has so divided the votes of the legislature that no Senator can be elected until there is a change of electors favorable to him; he [Poinsett] has seen the new Cabinet and likes Mr. [William P.] Graham [Secretary of the Navy] and [Alexander H. H.] Stuart [Secretary of the Interior]; he liked the President [Millard Fillmore], who is alarmed at the state of things in [South] Carolina; the people there are mad enough to risk a civil war, but prudence and firmness in Washington [D. C.] may avert it; Mrs. Poinsett joins him in sending love to Kemble and to Mr. and Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 27 cm. x 21 cm.

595. 1851, Jan. 6. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He sent two bronze statuettes, the Venus and the Apollino of the Museum of Florence [Italy], to the Kembles; he has been ill since receiving Kemble's last letter; he had a lung hemorrhage which has left him weak; his [Poinsett's] letter produced no effect in [South] Carolina, and he is glad Kemble thinks it did good elsewhere; he

¹⁴ George Ticknor, *History of Spanish Literature* (3 vols., New York, 1849).

wants to explain to the slave states the futility of maintaining slavery against the opposition of the whole civilized world—"The Union and Constitution form our ark of safety"; Mrs. Poinsett joins with him in sending love to Kemble and to Mr. and Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

596. 1851, Jan. 30. J. R. P[OINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.].
To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

Acknowledges her letter; he has been very ill; the winter was mild; he would like to meet her in London [England] but his health will not permit; he remembers her mother [Mrs. Tyrrell] with affectionate regard; the Poinsetts had a quiet Christmas without the usual crowd of grandchildren, grand nieces and nephews, etc.; he envies her school and the children in it; the [Edward] Pusey movement toward Catholicism was unfortunate for England; the "poor Pope [Pius IX] is surely a mighty silly old man, his present acts surpass in folly his former absurdities. Republicanism and Roman Catholicism are antagonistic; indeed the latter as it exists in Italy is inconsistent with free institutions of any description. Your [Prime] Minister [Lord John Russell] is right in my opinion now, he was not always so. The usurpation of the Pope ought to be opposed and put down at once and forever. We have Bishops and Archbishops and Cathedrals and Catholic seminaries . . . ; but here every institution partakes of the democratic principle of our government, and here the clergy have no property, they are dependent upon the laity, and however strange such a state of things may seem to you who live under a regular church establishment, our system works well"; the Catholics do well in America as missionaries to the Indians; he [Poinsett] has more confidence in the safety of Crystal Palace [Hyde Park, London, England] than she does; it is as safe as the palace of the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth [Derbyshire, England]; he cares only for machinery and agricultural implements out of all the exhibits at the World's Fair [Great Exhibition of 1851]; the Union has been threatened by discord between the free and slave states, but a compromise [the Compromise of 1850] saved the situation; Poinsett has not been so successful as he was in 1832 in checking the violence of the Southerners; the last act of his life will be a new attempt to make peace.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 6 pp. 31 cm. x 20 cm.

597. 1851, Feb. 10. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He is recovering from the lung hemorrhage; his trip north the previous summer improved his health; the hemorrhage came without

warning; only the most violent men will be elected for the convention, except from Poinsett's mountain district of Greenville, [S. C.], which is for the Union; he wrote a letter for a Union meeting in Georgetown [S. C.] which he couldn't attend; he is sending Kemble a Georgetown paper with letters from candidates for the convention; only those hostile to the general government can be elected; [Lieutenant] J[ames] H. Trapier hates the government whose bounty provided his education at West Point [N. Y.]; asks Kemble if he will travel after his retirement in the spring; he is sorry for [Edward K.] Collins because of the accident to the *Atlantic*; it will ruin his steamship line, and the character of United States steamships; asks if Mr. [Martin] Van Buren will go to the World's Fair [Great Exhibition of 1851, England] as representative of the N[ew] Y[ork] A[gricultural] A[ssociation]; Mrs. Poinsett sends love to Kemble and Mr. and Mrs. [Robert P.] Parrott.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

598. 1851, Mar. 8. J. R. POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.].
TO GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

The village newspaper has published his letter written for the Georgetown [S. C.] meeting which abused him and the letter, and then approved the action of the state legislature; asks Kemble to have it published in a more prominent paper; Major [Benjamin F.] Perry wrote that the unionists in Greenville [S. C.] beat the secessionists two to one; he [Perry] is going to establish [in Greenville] a union paper called the *Southern Patriot*; he will send Kemble a prospectus of it; if his health had not failed him, he [Poinsett] would have formed a Union party in South Carolina; the state will ultimately meet defeat; General [James] Hamilton's boasting shows how easily they convert defeat into imaginary success and glorification; the last two statuettes were not so unique as the "Mercury" he sent earlier; Mr. F. Cottenet was told by Messrs. Stevens and Williams that Poinsett's pictures were not ready for exhibition; Poinsett is confiding the sole management of the pictures to Kemble and his brother William [Kemble]; he and Mrs. Poinsett will come North in June if they can, but he will not sell the [Greenville] homestead until the railroad is completed; Kemble is to tell his brother William [Kemble] that Poinsett heard that three casks of seeds have been shipped from Liverpool [England] on board the *Western World*, Captain I. G. Moses, which sailed December 27, 1850; the letter sailed on the *Atlantic* and was brought out by the *Africa*; they are to be sent him by the *Southerner* when they arrive; he has an indifferent rice crop, and has changed his overseer; Poinsett agrees with Kemble about the President [Millard Fillmore] and his cabinet;

Fillmore is superior to any of [Martin] Van Buren's successors; it is a pity "he could not have put those caitiffs in Boston [Mass.] to rights without saying anything of the defects of the [fugitive slave?] law. Our friend the General [?] would have taken the responsibility"; Colonel B[enjamin] Huger and Major [Peter V.] Hagner of the ordnance visited him recently; Mrs. Poinsett joins him in sending regards to Kemble and his sister [Mrs. Robert P.] Parrott and all the family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

599. 1851, May 12. J. R. P[OINSETT, Georgetown, S. C.].
To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

Acknowledges her letter of March 12, enclosing a view of "the Big Glass House [Crystal Palace]"; he has had a slow convalescence with frequent relapses; he takes much exercise, walking, riding, and driving; in spite of his illness, he could not refrain from writing in opposition to the secessionist movement in South Carolina; he and Mrs. Poinsett are leaving tomorrow for Charleston, [S. C.], whence they will go to New York for the summer.

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 2 pp. 31 cm. x 20 cm.

600. 1851, June 29. J. R. POINSETT, Saratoga [Springs, N. Y.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

They dined in Troy [N. Y.] and played a game of whist with General [E. W.] Laight and Mr. and Mrs. Dutihl [Duttlh]; they [the Poinsetts] have been drinking the waters at Saratoga [Springs, N. Y.] for a week and are improved in health; they made a trip to Lake Luzerne by way of Hadley Falls; a new railroad from Saratoga Springs to Boston [Mass.], by way of Bellows Falls [Vt.], was recently opened; the running time is ten and a half hours; they regret missing Mr. [Martin] Van Buren at Cold Spring [N. Y.] but will see him in the autumn at Lindenwald [Kinderhook, N. Y.]; they are going to Sharon and Richfield next week; Mrs. Poinsett attaches no money value to the lost fan which "little Mary" [Pringle?] left with her to be repaired; it can be replaced, and "Archer's" mortification is sufficient punishment; he [Poinsett] saw Mr. [Benjamin F.] Butler, who "gave an account of the debates on the central college wherein blacks and whites, boys and girls are mingled chequer wise. . . . Such absurdities . . . in New York . . . strengthen our enemies in the South"; he and Mrs. Poinsett send love to Kemble and all their friends at Cold Spring.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

601. 1851, July 11. J. R. POINSETT, Sharon Springs, [N. Y.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He dislikes his idle, aimless life, and his swollen feet make walking difficult; the proprietor at Sharon Springs, Gardiner, had his best rooms engaged, so they have decided to visit Niagara [Falls] with Dr. and Mrs. [John E.] Holbrook of Charleston [S. C.]; Dr. Holbrook wrote a book on herpetology, and is now working on a description of fishes;¹⁵ he is clever and amusing; they may go to Richfield Springs, as Mrs. Poinsett thinks them more efficacious; they will go to Newport [R. I.] in August to see Mrs. Poinsett's sisters; if Kemble joins them there, Poinsett will go with him to Boston [Mass.]; General [George] Talcott has made a good defense for himself; the Secretary [of War, Charles M. Conrad] acted hastily in accusing Talcott of falsehood; the latter was blameless; if the commissioners in the Gardiner case had consulted the mining regulations of Mexico, they would have discovered that no foreigner can hold a mine in fee, or can lease a whole mine; the native proprietor must retain a certain number of shares; Dr. Gardiner's indebtedness is only \$80,000, wherefore his contribution to the cost of setting the mine in operation (\$350,000) could not have been very great; Mr. [George B.] Butler should ask who is the owner of the mine and how many shares he owns; the Mexican real estate laws must be understood to comprehend this case; "Like Dogberry, I bestow my tediousness upon you with great pleasure"; Mrs. Poinsett would join him in regards to all the Kembles at Cold Spring if she were on hand now.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

602. 1851, Aug. 20. J. R. POINSETT, Avon, [N. Y.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

If General [Joseph G.] Swift is at home they [the Poinsetts] will visit him on their way from Avon to Cold Spring; they will miss seeing Governor [Washington] Hunt at Albany [N. Y.]; ex-Governor [John] Young has been at Avon for his health, but the springs have failed to help him; he [Poinsett] has relieved the tedium of life by visiting Mr. James Wadsworth twice at Genesee [N. Y.]; he purchased a pair of horses for his wife; they hope he can accompany them on their visits to Mr. [Martin] Van Buren and Mr. [James K.] Paulding; they want to visit [C. C.] Cambreleng, and Kemble must "have a frolic with Dr. Rhinelander"; Mrs. Poinsett's

¹⁵ *American Herpetology, or a Description of Reptiles Inhabiting the United States* (5 vols., Philadelphia, 1842); *Ichthyology of South Carolina* (Charleston, 1854ff).

health is better; she sends regards to the family at Cold Spring; encloses a note which he just received.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

603. 1851, Aug. 26. J. R. POINSETT, Avon, [N. Y.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his letter mailed August 21; a new version of the proverb, "Man proposes and his wife disposes," applies in his case, for Mrs. Poinsett has decided to remain another week at Avon for the bathing; they will then go to Cold Spring [N. Y.]; hopes Kemble can meet them at Elmira [N. Y.].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

604. 1851, Aug. 30. J. R. POINSETT, Avon, [N. Y.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

They must delay their departure, as Mrs. Poinsett is very ill; she was bled by Dr. Trowbridge of Buffalo [N. Y.]; she caught a cold coming from the bath.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

605. 1851, Sept. 1. J. R. POINSETT, Avon, [N. Y.]. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Mrs. Poinsett's illness is inflammation of the lungs; she has suffered greatly but is better now; the Chevalier Hulseman has left Avon; he kept Poinsett supplied with newspapers; the *Herald* of August 27 had an article which spoke hopefully of a black republic in Cuba [W. I.].

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

606. 1851, Sept. 3. J. R. POINSETT, Avon, N. Y. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Mrs. Poinsett is not well; she was bled again; Poinsett believes she will recover.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

607. 1851, Sept. 3. J. R. POINSETT, Avon, N. Y. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Mrs. Poinsett is much better; his own health has stood the strain imposed upon it by the necessity of nursing his wife; the

[James] Wadsworths have been very kind and helpful; the time of their departure is problematical.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 20 cm.

608. 1851, Sept. 6. J. R. POINSETT, Avon, N. Y. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

If Mr. [George B.] Butler's views of the Cuba invasion are what Poinsett supposes, he [Butler] may use them to illustrate the evil tendency of similar illegal enterprises by the incidents of the Mexican revolution; he [Poinsett] found Mexico devastated by civil wars in 1822; twenty-five years of peace and investment of foreign capital failed to restore the country to its pre-revolutionary prosperity; the insurgents burned and pillaged the estates of the wealthy Creoles, for as in Cuba the landed proprietors are Creoles; the Spanish are tradesmen and officeholders; the only result was the loss of all hopes of freedom; the insurgents, though aided by the United States, were defeated; the revolution did succeed, but not until long after the insurrection of the people had been put down; the revolution was the work of the priesthood, the army, and the aristocracy, and originated in their hostility to the Spanish cortex; in his notes on Mexico, Poinsett included a brief history of the revolution; he thinks [Narcisso] Lopez inferior to [Francisco] Mina; Mrs. Poinsett is better, but still weak.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25 cm. x 19.5 cm.

Endorsed in Kemble's hand, "Mr. Butler one of the Editors of the Journal of Commerce, had requested from him information on Spanish and Mexican Affairs, and had offered to publish anything sent to him. GK."

609. 1851, Sept. 9. J. R. POINSETT, Avon, N. Y. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

He is grieved at the trouble with the propellers which has so worried Kemble; his Cuba letter may be quoted, if it is understood that it was written when everybody was predicting the success of [Narcisso] Lopez; Poinsett predicted failure, and hoped Lopez would be caught and hanged; acknowledges receipt of Kemble's letter yesterday; Mrs. Poinsett is improving slowly; if she can spare him, he will attend the agricultural fair at Rochester [N. Y.]; the [James] Wadsworths are very kind; they will leave Avon when Mrs. Poinsett's health permits.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

610. 1851, Sept. 15. J. R. POINSETT, Avon, N. Y. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Acknowledges his letter with enclosure; Mrs. P[oinsett] answered the letter from Kemble's sister Mary [Mrs. Robert P. Parrott] before she was taken ill; he hopes they can leave for Cold Spring within a week; he encloses a list of doors and shutters he wants Mr. Nourse to make for him; Mr. Poinsett wants to use them on the old cottage; sends regards to all the family; mentions the steamer *America*.

A. L. S. 1 p. 25.5 cm. x 20 cm.

Enclosure missing.

611. 1851, Sept. 19. J. R. POINSETT, Avon, N. Y. To GOUV[ERNEUR] KEMBLE, Cold Springs, N. Y.

He and Mrs. Poinsett will leave early next week; he went to the [agricultural] fair at Rochester [N. Y.], and Mrs. [James] Wadsworth kept Mrs. Poinsett company in his absence; he avoided notable people at the fair; they will come to Cold Spring via Rochester [N. Y.], Syracuse [N. Y.], Utica [N. Y.], Albany [N. Y.], and Poughkeepsie [N. Y.]; H[udson] R[iver] R[ail] R[oad] runs from Poughkeepsie to Cold Spring; he [Poinsett] would have liked to travel by the Erie Railroad except for the necessity of changing from steamboat to train; he has just heard of the opening of the railroad between Canandaigua [Canandaigua, N. Y.] and Elmira [N. Y.] and they may therefore travel that route; Mrs. Poinsett joins him in sending regards to the family at Cold Spring.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24.5 cm. x 19 cm.

612. 1851, Nov. 5. J. R. P[OINSETT], New York, [N. Y.]. To [FRANCES TYRRELL, England]

Acknowledges her letter; they [he and Mrs. Poinsett] went to the Sulphur Springs in New York State during the summer instead of going to Greenville [S. C.]; Mrs. Poinsett was seriously ill for several weeks, and gained nothing from the bathing; he himself is not entirely well; the western part of New York is fertile, and is therefore thickly populated; he can remember it as a wilderness; Niagara Falls is an imposing sight, which he has seen many times; he envies her the tour of Normandy and Brittany [France]; everything in America is "new and sparkling and the people civil and shrewd"; asks her to send him one of her sketches made on her trip; he will send her one of the Hudson River, upon which one can sometimes see fifty or sixty vessels at once; a railroad has been built along this river; he believes there will be a *coup d'état* in Paris [France] next spring; the President [Louis Napoleon] is right in restoring universal suffrage, if he wishes to retain power; the masses placed him where he is and can keep him there; neither the French

nor any people on the continent [of Europe] have any idea of constitutional liberty—"They must talk English and read English and think like Englishmen for that"; France will be either imperial or monarchical; he and she will both be ashamed later of the enthusiasm they now feel for [Louis] Kossuth, who is "a mad Editor out of his sphere and seeking to immortalize himself by stirring up the passions of the masses and then leaving them to work out their own. An impracticable man—In short a pestilent fellow. I hope you will not make too much of him in England, for we shall surely follow your example."

Cy. in Mrs. Poinsett's hand. 6 pp. 30.5 cm. x 20 cm.

613. 1855, Jan. 12. [MRS.] M[ARY] POINSETT, [Georgetown, S. C.]. To MR. [HENRY D.] GILPIN, [Philadelphia, Pa.]

Congratulates him and Mrs. Gilpin on their safe return from their travels abroad; she is sending him an abridged life of her husband [Joel R. Poinsett] given her by Dr. [Joseph] Johnson, which she forgot to send with the other data; she hopes he will find it useful in his undertaking; she was regrettably prevented from seeing them [Mr. and Mrs. Gilpin] on her way through Philadelphia [Pa.]; sends regards to Mrs. Gilpin.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18 cm. x 15 cm.

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